

BORATES

(Some pesticides that contain Boron)

I'm adding this small section because I receive many questions about borate insecticides. A few of the more common names and chemical formulae for each chemical are given, with a couple of trade names with their concentrations. Usually the borates are dissolved in a sweet bait matrix, like sugar water or corn syrup, at 1-5% concentration. The very best bait matrix, "*NecDew*," is not yet on the market. When I have some time, I hope to start production. Someday. Perhaps...

- **Borax** is "sodium borate decahydrate" or "sodium tetraborate decahydrate" (salt of boric acid) or $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; used in: Terro Ant Killer II (5.4%).
- **Boric acid** is "orthoboric acid" or H_3BO_3 or $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; used in: Drax (1%).
- **DOT** is "disodium octaborate tetrahydrate" or $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_8\text{O}_{13} \cdot 4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; in: TimBor (98%) and Uncle Albert's Super Smart Ant Bait (1%).

Borates tend to be about as toxic as table salt (see [toxicity table](#)).

"Boron is an essential micronutrient for plants and most people eat between one and three milligrams every day as part of a healthy diet of fruits, vegetables, grains, cereals and nuts." (<http://www.borax.com/news38.html>)

Please note the word "micronutrient!" In other words, boron is essential in small quantities. Boron applied to plants in excess of that which is permitted by the product label can burn plants.

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*Read about *NecDew*: <http://shalompest.homestead.com/necdew.html>