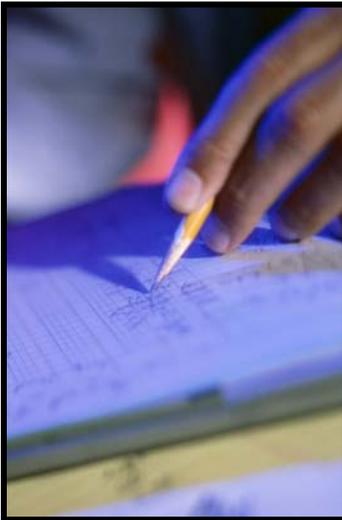




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Private Pesticide Applicators- Keep Records of Pesticide Applications But Which Pesticides and What Records?



Record keeping, record keeping- most of us try to avoid this like the plague. However, keeping records of pesticide applications has been proven to be very beneficial in improving one's bottom line and efficiency of business operations. If that fact alone doesn't pique your interest, then there are a couple of other facts you should be aware of.

First and foremost, Private Pesticide Applicators are required by USDA and the State of Colorado to "maintain accurate and legible records of each restricted use pesticide application in accordance with all regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture's federal pesticide recordkeeping requirements." Yes, you are required to do this- but only for restricted use pesticides (RUP), not general use pesticides (GUP). Each pesticide that is labeled as a RUP will have a statement on the pesticide label indicating the restriction and what precautions are to be followed when applying that pesticide. 'Whew'! No records are required when applying a general use product. But wait--- this sounds too good to be true! And yes, there is a catch.

The other fact that you need to be aware of is this one: Most private applicators (farm, greenhouse, nursery, forest, and sod farm operations) will be using pesticides that have an 'Agricultural Use' statement on the pesticide label. If such a statement appears on the label of the product you are using then you must comply with Worker Protection Standards (WPS). Record keeping applies to these pesticides as well – whether they are RUP or GUP. The WPS is a requirement of Environmental Protection Agency and is intended to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning and injury among agricultural workers.

What records need to be kept? The chart below will, hopefully, help to make all this clear.

Required elements	<u>Restricted Use Pesticides</u> USDA Requirements for Private Applicators	<u>Agricultural Use Pesticides</u> WPS Requirements for Agricultural Employers
Applicator Name	✓	-
Applicator certification number	✓	-

MM/DD/YY	✓	✓ plus time of application
EPA Registration number	✓	✓
Field ID/Location	✓	✓
Brand or Product Name	✓	✓
Crop, Commodity or Site	✓	-
Size of Area treated	✓	-
Total Amount Applied	✓	-
Active Ingredients	-	✓
Restricted Entry Interval (REI)	-	✓
Complete Records	Within 14 days of the application and kept for 3 years	Before application, keep 30 days after the REI has expired

If all this is making your head spin- think about the benefits of record keeping.

These include:

- ✓ Records help evaluate how well a chemical worked, particularly if you are using reduced rates or alternative application techniques.
- ✓ Records help you decide how much pesticide you will need for future production to help limit purchase and storage of excess chemicals.
- ✓ Records can save money by helping you determine the best pesticide management program.
- ✓ Records are the key to a successful integrated pest management program.
- ✓ Records help to prevent carry-over injury and improve rotation decisions.
- ✓ Records may protect you from legal action if you are accused of improper pesticide use.

Keeping records should not be just about the requirements. It should also be about wise business management.

Two record keeping manuals are available for private applicators to assist in the record keeping process. These are free of charge. One manual is for Greenhouses and Nurseries and the other is for Farms. Contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-239-4186 to request a copy.

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