



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

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This fact sheet outlines the recordkeeping requirements for Colorado private pesticide applicators.

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## Private Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements

The [United States Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) requires private pesticide applicators to keep a record of all restricted use pesticides (RUP) applications (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)). No standard federal form is required, so private pesticide record-keeping can be integrated into your current recordkeeping formats. Records must be logged within 14 days and retained for two years following the pesticide application.



### Records must include:

- **Brand or product name.** Trademark name of the pesticide being used.
- **EPA registration number.** The registration numbers is not the same as the EPA establishment number which is also located on the label.
- **Location of application.** You must be able to locate the field two years following application. The law suggests any of the following designations:
  - ◇ county, range, township and section
  - ◇ maps or written descriptions
  - ◇ a USDA identification system such as those used by the [Farm Service Agency](#) or [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) which involves maps and a numbering system to identify field locations
  - ◇ The legal property description
- **Crop, stored product, commodity, or site treated.**
- **Day, month, and year applied.**
- **Size of area treated.** Record this information in the unit of measure (such as acres, linear feet, bushel, cubic feet, number of animals, etc.) which is normally expressed on the label in reference to the application being made.
- **Total amount applied.** Record this information in common units of measure (such as pints, quarts, gallons, etc. of concentrated pesticide. Amount does not refer to the percent of active ingredient (a.i.). Total amount = rate x acres applied.
- **Name of the private applicator performing and/or supervising the application.**

- **Certification number of the private applicator.** If the name of the private applicator and the certification number are kept together, this information only has to be listed once (Note: the name and certification number may be noted at the front of a record book if the same applicator is making the application).

#### **Other useful, but optional information:**

- REI - Restricted Entry Interval
- Application rate of chemical
- Gallonage
- Surfactant
- Nozzle type
- Wind speed and direction
- Crop variety

#### **How to record spot treatments**

Spot treatments are especially useful in the control of noxious weeds. Spot treatments applied to a total area of less than one-tenth of an acre require the following records:

- Brand or product name
- EPA registration number
- Location of application designated as “spot application”, followed by a short description. For example, the location could be recorded as “spot application”, followed by “treated for noxious weeds on Fields A, C, and all pastures”
- Month, day, and year applied

The spot treatment provision excludes greenhouse and nursery applicators, which are required to keep all data elements as listed.

#### **How does keeping records benefit me?**

Keeping pesticide records is good business practice and has numerous benefits:

- **Saves money.** Accurate pesticide records will enable you to know and buy the correct amount of pesticides for each growing season.
- **Shows what is working.** Good records will help you determine how a pesticide application achieved the best results or why a pesticide may have performed poorly and prevent future repeated failures.
- **Documents correct use.** Should a question arise concerning pesticide use, your records may provide liability protection.
- **Improves management decisions.** Since some pesticides have restrictions on what can be planted the following year in the same field, good records can help you plan your crop rotation.

## **Are pesticide records ever inspected?**

Yes. The USDA has the authority to inspect your application records at any time to determine if you are applying the products according to the label.

## **References and Resources**

*Example Recordkeeping Forms*. 2003. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Manassas, VA. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/prb/prblink.htm>.

*Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program*. 2003. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Manassas, VA. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/sdpr.htm>.

*Federal Restricted-Use Pesticide Recordkeeping Inspection Q&A*. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Manassas, VA. 2003. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/prb/prbqa.htm>.

*Pesticide Record Book for Private Applicators*. 2003. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Fort Collins, CO.

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