Keeping Pesticide Application Records

By Mary Owen

Successful managers maintain and use records in several aspects of their operations, including budget, personnel and labor records, inventories of materials and fuel, turf management cultural practices, as well as applications of pesticides, fertilizers and other materials. The intent of this article is to discuss the keeping of pesticide application records as a regulatory requirement and decision making tool.

Why Keep Pesticide Application Records?

The first and most important reason is to comply with regulations. Federal law requires specific records to be kept of applications of restricted-use products. In addition, most state laws require the recording of specific pieces of information regarding the application of not only restricted-use but also general-use pesticides. The regulatory authority for your state may lie within the department of agriculture, the department of environmental protection, the department of environmental management or a similar body. Contact the appropriate authority in your state for specific regulations as well as sample pesticide record-keeping forms.

Second, pesticide application records provide documentation that may be needed for community right-to-know situations, for technical information in cases of accidents or emergencies, or for other cases in which documentation is needed. In some cases, well kept records can be used to support the need for additional pesticide registrations.

What Type of Information Should the Records Contain?

Specific entries required may vary from state to state. Check with your appropriate authority to determine the base data to record. The following is a suggested list of entries, along with a brief explanation and a sample entry.

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