

Chemical Log

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 that specific records 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.

Third, carefully kept and analyzed records can be used as a basis for improved decision making. You can evaluate the effectiveness of materials, rates and timing chosen for the management of a specific target pest. Well kept records can serve as a basis for improved budgetary and buying decisions. They can provide a track record of material performance and field performance over time.

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.

Place of application. Record the specific field and its location, and include the size of the area to which the application was made. "Memorial practice fields, School St., Waterfield, MA — 3.5 acres."

Date of application. Include month, day and year of application. "4-10-96."

Brand or product name of the pesticide. Use the manufacturer's trade name of the product applied. "Keep-It-Green Crabgrass Preventer."

Active ingredient of the pesticide. Use the generic name of the product applied. "Pendimethalin."

EPA pesticide registration number. This number is listed on the label of the pesticide. It is not the EPA establishment number. "640-007."

Amount of pesticide applied to the site. Both the rate of application and the total should be recorded. "Rate: 2.5 lbs./acre. Total: 8.75 lbs."

Purpose of application. Record the pest(s) or problems for which the application was made. "Pre-emergence crabgrass control."

Method of application. How was the material applied — hydraulic sprayer, granular spreader? "Hydraulic Sprayer."

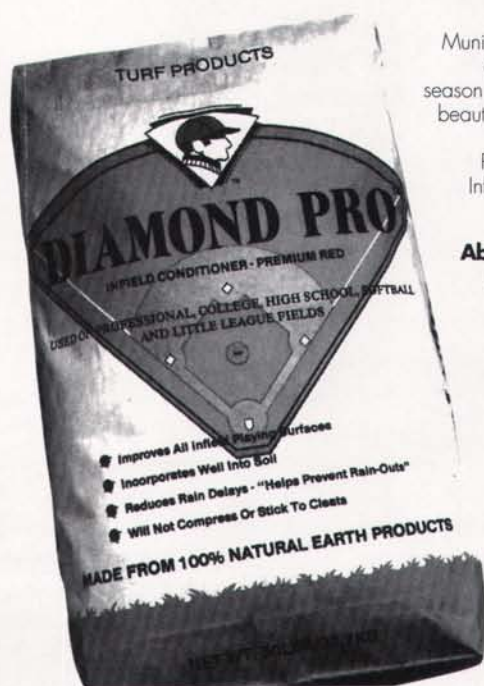
Effectiveness of application. Did the application result in sufficient control of the pest or management of the problem? "95% control; some crabgrass invasion in northwest quadrant."

Applicator. Applicator's name and, if pertinent, pesticide license number. "Samuel Jones; MA license #012345."

Accidents, etc. Record accidents, spills, incidents and injuries resulting from the application. "None."

Weather and other prevailing conditions. Describe weather and environmental conditions before, during and immediately after the application. "Dry. High temps. in low 60s, low temps. in high 30s. Soil temp. at midday: 48 F."

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