



GROWING TIMES



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Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

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Pesticide Use Reporting

A Reminder...

Filling out use reports can be an arduous task, but it is an important tool that the County and the State use to monitor pesticide use. It is important we receive these reports on time and the information is correct.

Which use report should you use?

There are two use report forms, Production Agriculture and Monthly Summary Use Reports. Each form is suited for a different kind of pesticide application, so it is important to use the right form.

Production Agriculture Use Report

This report must be used whenever a pesticide is applied to a crop, commodity, or to a field in a pre-plant application. This report requires a grower to enter specific information about the pesticide applied to the crop or site. This report requires a grower to

fill out additional information such as:

1. Total planted acreage / units
2. Commodity and Field location
3. Date / Time application was completed
4. Days Reentry
5. Rate per acre
6. Dilution

Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Reports

This report summarizes the use of pesticides applied in connection with the farming operation, but not directly onto a crop. Examples include weed control or rodent bait applications along a roadway; ditch bank, edge row, around a storage barn, or on other parts of the farming operation.

You are asked to use this form so we can separate what is being applied to the crop from other pesticide uses. For example, if an apricot grower reported the use of Roundup on a Production Agriculture Use Report, it would look like he sprayed his apricots with Roundup. If a grower uses Roundup, the appropriate form would be the Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report form. That way everyone is clear that the Roundup was used around or near the trees, not on them!

The Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report, like its name suggests, asks for a summary of pesticides used for the month. If you applied Roundup along a ditch bank on 5 different days during a month, and sprayed along a roadway as well, you would combine all of these non-crop applications and report the total amount you used on one line on the Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report.

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Private Applicator Certificates



We receive questions every year about private applicator certificate cards. These cards are issued to growers that have taken and passed the private applicator examination or have kept their certification current through attending continuing education classes.

When does a grower need to become a certified private applicator?

- 1) When a grower trains their employees on pesticide use. (People that train field workers or pesticide applicators that work in an agricultural setting must be certified.)
- 2) Growers that want to apply California Restricted Materials. Only certified applicators can sign for a California Restricted Materials permit.
- 3) Growers who want to use pesticides that are Federally Restricted. Federally Restricted Materials can only be purchased and used by a certified applicator. A Certified Private Applicator Card will allow a grower to purchase these materials. (A California Restricted Materials permit is not required for federally restricted materials.)

Expiration dates and Continuing Education

The expiration dates for private applicator certificates are contingent upon the grower's last name. The cards are issued for 3 years, unless a new grower enters the system in the middle of the cycle. In this case, the grower will be issued a card that will expire with everyone else in the group.

In order to renew a certificate, an applicator must obtain 6 hours of continuing education during the three-year period their certificate is valid. For example, a certified applicator that has had their card for 3 years needs to show proof of a total of 6 hours of continuing education. So hang on to those seminar completion notices!

Where can you find continuing education seminar information?

Continuing Education Seminars are posted on DPR's website www.cdpr.ca.gov as well as on our website: www.sccagriculture.org

Private Applicator Certificate expiration dates:

"A" through "H"-- your certification expires on December 31, 2003. To renew your certification, you must either pass a written examination, or complete six hours of approved continuing education before December 31, 2003.

"I" through "Q"-- your certification expires on December 31, 2004. To renew your certification, you must either pass a written examination or complete six hours of approved continuing education before December 31, 2004.

"R" through "Z"-- your certification expires on December 31, 2005. To renew your certification, you must either pass a written examination or complete six hours of approved continuing education before December 31, 2005.

Grower Study Guide

For those of you looking for a study guide for the test, here's a helpful publication that you can order: "Pesticide Safety - a Reference Manual For Growers"

To order this publication, call the University of California at (800) 994-8849. The publication number is 3383 and it costs \$7.00

Continuing Education Seminar

This continuing education seminar is open to anyone interested in learning something new about weed identification & control, preventing runoff and leaching of pesticides, fertilization, and water efficiency.

When: December 2, 2003

Where: The Lion's Club
12415 Murphy Ave
San Martin

Time: 8:30 - 11:45
(Registration starts at 8:00)

Credits: 2½ Private Applicator Credits

RSVP: Please call our South County Office to reserve a seat: (408) 465-2900

Non-Compliances versus Violation Notices

Is there a difference between receiving a non-compliance on an inspection form, and receiving a violation notice?

Many people think that receiving a violation notice is worse than getting a non-compliance, but this is not the case. There is actually no difference between the two. They are just different ways of documenting an incorrect or inappropriate action.

If marking a non-compliance and issuing a violation notice mean the same thing, why use both?

Violation notices are usually issued if an inspector wants to bring special attention to a problem, especially when a repeat of the same action could result in a fine. We have also found that when we issue a violation notice, the person is more likely to correct the inappropriate behavior.

Both inspection forms and violation notices stay on file for a maximum of three years. A repeat of the same non-compliance could result in an enforcement action (fine), regardless of whether it was documented as a non-compliance on an inspection form or as a violation notice.

Signing Violation Notices & Inspection Forms

When you sign a violation notice you are not admitting your guilt. You are just acknowledging that the inspector discussed the issue or problem with you and that you have received a copy of the violation notice.

If you refuse to sign a violation notice or inspection form, the inspector will write, "Declined to sign" in the signature box. The form will still be filed and the non-compliance or violation that the form addressed will be treated the same as those recorded on signed forms.

Because a violation notice does not involve a penalty, there is no hearing or appeal process. However, if you wish to write a letter explaining why you disagree with a violation notice, you may do so. The letter will be filed along with the violation notice in your file.

What makes a substance a Pesticide?

Insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides...

The term "pesticide" describes a large number of materials. The word itself means to kill a pest. So, a pesticide is a substance designed to kill something, whether it is an insect, weed, rodent or microorganism. Many people are surprised when we tell them antimicrobial dish soap is a pesticide!

The State of California takes the definition of the word "pesticide" and broadens it even further. The State includes substances that repel pests, regulate plant growth, and adjuvants into their definition of "pesticide". The Food and Agricultural Code, Section 12753 defines the word pesticide as the following:

"Pesticide" includes any of the following: (a) Any spray adjuvant. (b) Any substance, or mixture of substances which is intended to be used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, as defined in Section 12754.5, which may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, man, animals, or households, or be present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment whatsoever.

Some examples of pesticides:

- 1) Insecticides
- 2) Fungicides
- 3) Herbicides
- 4) Nematicides
- 5) Rodenticides
- 6) Antimicrobials (Kills germs)
- 7) Adjuvants (Such as No Foam B)
- 8) Sanitizers and Disinfectants
- 9) Growth Regulators

Are fertilizers included in the definition of a pesticide?

Fertilizers by themselves are not considered a pesticide. The only exception to this rule is when a fertilizer is labeled to control a pest or has a herbicide mixed into it.