

# Horticulture

This fact sheet is for people who apply pesticides to horticultural crops, such as orchard fruits, field vegetables, cut flowers, nursery stock, nuts, herbs, grapes (including wine grapes), olives, bananas, and tree crops, for agricultural operations. It is also relevant to anyone who applies pesticides to vegetables or fruit grown in market gardens and greenhouses. It provides guidance on how to comply with record-keeping rules as set out in the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

You should check if your industry quality assurance scheme has additional requirements.

## What pesticide uses do I need to record?

Under the Regulation you **must** make a record of all pesticides used on commercial horticultural crops. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, fumigants and bactericides. For example, this means you must make a record if you:

- apply pesticides to horticultural crops grown in orchards, open fields, nurseries, hydroponic growing tables or in greenhouses
- apply pesticides to horticultural crops by hand (for example, if you apply powder or granular pesticides by hand or use equipment such as a knapsack and hand applicator or a rope wick)
- apply pesticides to horticultural crops using powered equipment (for example, powered spray equipment mounted on or attached to a

vehicle such as a ground rig, tractor-mounted boom spray or air blaster) or hand-held powered equipment (for example, if you attached a hand-held applicator to the tanks on the back of your tractor or attached a hose to a stationary tank)

- treat seeds, cuttings, graftings or seedlings with a pesticide prior to planting
- dip fruit or vegetables in a pesticide after they have been harvested to treat post-harvest moulds, fungi or insects, or to prevent post-harvest rot.

You do not need to make a record if you are spot spraying on or within horticultural tree crops (any trees grown for their fruits, flowers or nuts) if you meet the domestic like use exemption (see next section) or where **all** of the following apply:

- you use hand-held and hand-powered equipment (for example, a knapsack and hand applicator), and
- the application is confined to a small and restricted area, and
- the pesticide is applied no closer than 20 metres to a property boundary.

## What is the domestic like use exemption?

The domestic like use exemption allows you to use small quantities of domestic-type pesticides without making a record. Under the exemption you do not need to make a record if **all** of the following conditions are met:

- the pesticide you are using is ordinarily used for domestic purposes (for example, home gardening), and
- it is widely available to the general public at retail outlets (for example, supermarkets or hardware stores), and
- you are applying the pesticide by hand or using a hand-held applicator, and
- in the case of outdoor use, you use no more than 20 litres or 20 kilograms of 'ready-to-use' product, or 5 litres or 5 kilograms of concentrated product, and/or

- in the case of indoor use, you use no more than 5 litres or 5 kilograms of ready-to-use product or 1 litre or 1 kilogram of concentrated product.

## What information do I have to record?

To comply with the record-keeping rules set out in the Regulation you must record:

- the **full product name** of the pesticide applied (for example, Bayfidan 250 EC Fungicide or Proclaim Insecticide ®; not just 'Bayfidan' or 'Proclaim')
- the **crop** you treated (for example, 'Shiraz grapes', 'mature green coronet cabbage', or 'chrysanthemums'; not just 'fruits', 'vegetables' or 'flowers') or the **situation** in which the pesticide was used (for example, fallow spraying)
- the **rate** of application (this is on the product label) and **quantity** of pesticide applied (for example, record the total amount of pesticide concentrate you used in a mix, the total amount of mix you made up, how much you used and the area [square metres or hectares] covered by the application).
- the property **address**, and a clear delineation of the **area** where the pesticide was applied; you can mark this on a rough sketch or map of your property if this is easier
- the **date** of the application
- the **name, address and contact details** of the person who applied the pesticide. If you applied the pesticide yourself, you must write down your details. If you employed someone to apply the pesticide, that person must record their name, as well as your name, address and contact details as their employer. If the pesticide was applied by a contractor, the contractor must record their own name, address and contact details.
- if you were **outdoors** and **sprayed** the pesticide through the air (for example, using a boom spray) you also need to record:
  - an estimate of the **wind speed and direction** at the start of the application and any significant wind changes during the application. You can use the adapted Beaufort scale at the end of this fact sheet to help estimate the wind speed. Copies of the Beaufort scale are also available from the [Bureau of Meteorology website](http://www.bureauofmeteorology.gov.au)

- if **other weather conditions** are specified on the label as relevant to that pesticide's proper use (such as temperature, humidity or rainfall) you must record a description of these weather conditions at the start of the application and any significant changes in these conditions during the application. For example, if the label says, 'do not apply when temperatures are above 30°C', then you should record the temperature at the start of the application and any significant temperature changes during spraying.

**Note:** You do not need to record weather details if you are spraying pesticides in a greenhouse, and the doors or ends of the greenhouse sheds are closed.

## What form do I use?

You can use the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA's) sample record-keeping form, or make your record in any way you wish, provided each record includes the information required. If you already keep records for other purposes, you can simply add to that record any of the requirements listed above not already in that record. Information may be stored electronically.

## Who makes the record?

If you applied the pesticide yourself, it is your responsibility to make the record. You can get someone else to write it down for you, but it is up to you to ensure the record is made and that it is accurate. **The record must be made in English.**

## When do I make the record?

If you need to make a record you must do so within 48 hours of applying the pesticide.

## Who keeps the record and for how long?

If you are required to make a record under the Regulation, you must keep the record for three years.

You must keep the record if you are the owner or the person who manages or controls the property on which you or your employees applied the pesticide.

You must give the record to your employer to keep if you are an employee.

You must keep the record if you are a contractor. You must also provide a copy to the owner or manager of the property if they request it.

## Where can I get more information?

More information about record keeping is available from the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555 (NSW only) or on the [EPA website](#).

The Pesticides Regulation 2017 has full details of the record-keeping requirements. A copy of the *Pesticide Act 1999* and the Regulation can be viewed on the [NSW Government legislation website](#).

## Beaufort scale

Table 1 This modified Beaufort scale is provided to help you determine wind speed for pesticide record-keeping purposes.

Beaufort or force number	Wind speed km/h	Description
0	Less than 1	Calm: Smoke will rise vertically.
1	1–5	Weather vane is inactive, rising smoke drifts.
2	6–11	Leaves rustle, can feel wind on your face, weather vane is inactive.
3	12–19	Leaves and twigs move around. Light-weight flags extend.
4	20–28	Moves thin branches, raises dust and paper.
5	29–38	Small trees move or sway.

**Note:** This table only includes the lower wind speed portion of the Beaufort scale. The full Beaufort scale also includes higher force numbers, which describe stronger wind speeds.

**Source:** [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

## Sample pesticide record

### Property

**Name:** Always Green Fruit & Veg farm  
**Address:** 56-62 Green Road, Shepherd Valley, NSW 2999  
**Phone:** (02) 8755 6422

### Applicator contact details

**Employees:** Allan Donovan (as above), John Simpson (as above)

Table 2 Pesticide application record keeping.

Full Product Name	Date	Pest (optional)	Crop place	or	Rate	Quantity (L)	Size	Area treated	Applicator	Wind speed/direction (weather conditions)
Proclaim Insecticide	22 Jan 2014	Heliothis	Trellised tomato vines 1–12		250 g in 1000 L water per ha	500	0.5 ha	Tomato vines 1 through 12	AI	Scale 1 SSW, approx. 23 degrees
Betamite 300WG Miticide	16 Feb 2014	Two-spotted mite	Apples, crop A		5.5 kg per ha	2750	1 ha	Apple field A, southern corner of property	John	Calm, no wind, approx. 22 degrees

**Note:** This is a sample record only. This information can be recorded in other ways, for example, incorporated into industry quality assurance scheme records.

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ISBN 978-1-925688-50-4 | EPA 2017P0366  
 December 2017

