

# Environmental compliance checklist for pesticides used in intensive horticulture

This checklist will help you comply with environment and pesticide laws and promote good day-to-day environmental management practices. Operating your farm in accordance with legal requirements and adopting best environmental practice helps protect the environment and human health, and minimise the risk of non-compliance.

Horticultural farmers should complete this checklist at least twice a year.

## More information

If you answer 'no' to any of the checklist questions, see more information and guidance on how to comply with environmental laws and best practice at:

- NSW EPA website: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)
- NSW Local Land Services: <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/growing-grazing-and-land/horticulture>
- NSW Department of Primary Industries: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture>

## Farm or property details

Property Owner Name	Property Operator Name (if different from owner)	Address

## Checklist

Preparing for and Conducting Spray Operations	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Do I have the appropriate AQF level 3 training qualification to use and apply pesticides? (ChemCert, Spray Smart etc).				
Is my qualification still current? (Must be renewed every 5 years)				
Do I regularly check the weather forecast to make sure the wind is suitable for spraying pesticide? To avoid spray drift, pesticide should not be applied when wind is gusting and also when speeds are above 15 km/h or in still conditions.				
Do I notify neighbours before I spray pesticide?				

Do I carefully read the pesticide product labels and check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the pesticides that I use registered by APVMA for my crop?</li> <li>Are there any restrictions that apply to the use of the pesticide on my crop (such as the pesticide must not be used on certain crops in certain condition – such as in hot houses)</li> </ul>				
Do I check the BeeConnected App to see if any beehives are located near the property? <a href="https://beeconnected.org.au/">https://beeconnected.org.au/</a>				
Do I notify the owner of any nearby beehives before applying pesticides?				
Do I check that there are no bees foraging on the block to be sprayed?				
Do I check if weeds are flowering and slash weeds before spraying to reduce likelihood of bee activity?				
Do I calibrate spray equipment to ensure that spray application is in accordance with product label?				
Do I fill spray tanks and mix chemicals in a dedicated area away from water courses or drainage lines?				
Do I make a record of pesticide use ASAP after spraying (and no later than 48 hrs after application)?				

<b>Pesticide Storage</b>	Yes	No	N/A	Comment
Do I store pesticides in a secure, ventilated and enclosed area that is locked and bunded and out of the weather?				
Is my storage area set back away from a creek or drainage line?				
Are my pesticides stored in containers with approved label?				
Do I triple rinse my used containers into the applicator tank and store them in a secure enclosed area?				
Am I due to take waste drums to DrumMuster?				
Do I have old pesticides that I don't use? What are they? If yes, go to <a href="https://www.chemclear.org.au">https://www.chemclear.org.au</a> to register them for collection.				

<b>Fertigation &amp; Wastewater Management Systems</b>	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Do I have a wastewater collection system in place to prevent wastewater runoff to waterways?				

Have I checked pumps and wastewater storage tank to prevent overflow or leakage?				
Has my wastewater collection and reuse/irrigation system been designed by a wastewater expert? Who was this?				
Has my fertigation system been checked to ensure there are no leaks or escapes of fertigation solution from any pipework?				
Are my fertigation solution mixing rates based on current recommended rates?				
Who has provided me with the most recent expert horticultural advice? eg agronomist , etc.				
Is waste water containing pesticides and fertilisers captured and recycled to prevent it from entering creeks and/or drainage lines? Note, wastewaters entering creeks or drainage lines may constitute a pollute waters offence.				

<b>Waste management</b>	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Have I separated my farm waste into recyclable and non-recyclable materials?				
Do I ensure that no waste is burned on my farm?				
Is all of my farm waste that can't be recycled contained/stored to prevent movement by wind and/or water?				
Do I send waste to the tip for recycling or landfill? When was my last trip?				
Is my waste grow media composted on site away from creeks and drainage lines? (note, if waste enters creeks or drainage lines this may constitute a serious offence of pollute waters).				
Is my waste plastic tunnel sheeting recycled?				

<b>Land and water management</b>	Yes	No	N/A	Comment
Are my inter-rows grassed to help stop soil erosion?				
Have I stabilised eroded areas on my farm to stop erosion getting worse?				
Do creek banks on my farm have vegetation to protect against erosion?				
Do I have a farm dam or use other methods to help trap sediment from running off my farm? Note, sediment entering creeks or drainage lines may constitute a pollute waters offence.				