

Best Management Practices for Colorado Corn

Primary Authors: Troy Bauder
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Colorado State University

Reagan Waskom
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Colorado State University

Contributing Authors: Joel Schneekloth
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

Jerry Alldredge
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

Technical Writing and Support: Marjorie Nockels Ortiz
Layout: Debbie Fields

Graphic Design: Nancy Reick, Kendall Printing

Funded by the Colorado Corn Growers Association/Colorado Corn Administrative Committee through a grant by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment through a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Education Grant. Additional funding and support provided by the Agricultural Chemicals and Ground Water Protection Program at the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

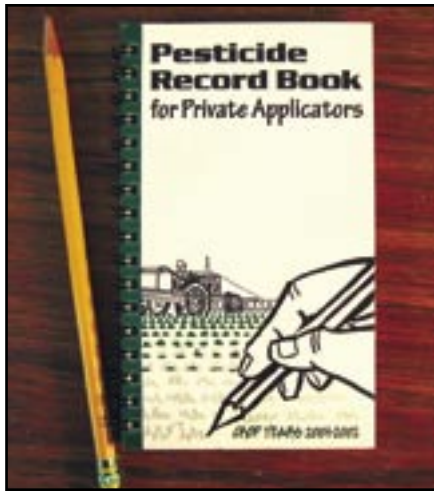
Special acknowledgments to
the following reviewers:

Bruce Bosley, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
Bill Brown, Colorado State University
Grant Cardon, Colorado State University
Wayne Cooley, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
Bill Curran, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Ron Meyer, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
Frank Peairs, Colorado State University
Calvin Pearson, Colorado State University
Gary Peterson, Colorado State University
Dwayne Westfall, Colorado State University
Phil Westra, Colorado State University

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify terminology, trade names of products and equipment are occasionally used. No endorsement of products mentioned is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.

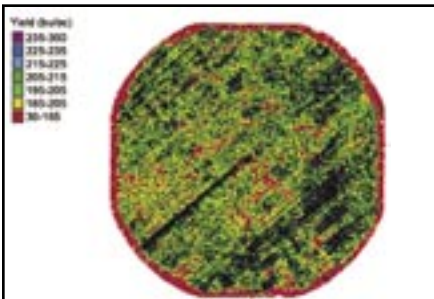
Published by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension in Cooperation with the Colorado Corn Growers Association/
Colorado Corn Administrative Committee.
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Bulletin XCM574A. February 2003.

Record Keeping



The federal government has specific record keeping requirements for restricted use pesticides (RUPs) including keeping them for two years. A pocket-sized Pesticide Record Book for Private Applicators has been developed to help Colorado growers properly keep RUP records. Contact your County Extension Office to obtain a copy.

Maintain nutrient management plans and actual manure and fertilizer management records on file a minimum of 5 years or the duration of your crop rotation, if longer than 5 years.



Yield monitors on combines offer growers the ability to track site specific yields in their fields, yet without good records, explaining yield variability is difficult.

Source: R. Khosla

Good record keeping is the backbone of sound pest, nutrient and irrigation management programs. Many of us like to think we can remember details about past management of several fields, but often our memories fail and are of no use in legal or regulatory matters. Records help explain yield problems or successes for making future decisions more profitable. Sound record keeping will become more critical as advances in genetically modified crops become more common and markets require higher standards of purity.

Record Keeping Checklist

Preseason/Planting:

- Previous crop/rotation
- Preplant herbicide application*
- Preplant fertilizer application
- Preseason irrigation
- Planting date, hybrid, seeding rate
- At planting rootworm control*

Knee-high to tassel:

- Irrigation dates & amounts
- Insecticide application(s) information*
- Fertigation dates/amounts
- Scouting observations
- Tassel appearance

Emergence to knee-high:

- Emergence date, stand count
- Post-emergence herbicide application*
- Sidedress nitrogen rate and application date
- Scouting observations
- First irrigation date

Tassel to maturity:

- Kernel development/maturation dates
- Success of insect and weed control
- Final irrigation date/amount
- Appearance of black layer (maturity)

*Federal law requires specific records to be kept for all restricted use pesticide (RUP) applications

Yield records for each field should be kept by

- hybrid,
- weed/insect control package,
- fertilizer rate and amounts,
- soil type,
- irrigation timing and amount, and
- other management differences to help explain yield differences later.