



Maine Board of Pesticides Control

FACTSHEET FOR BT CORN IN MAINE




[revised February 2009]

[Note: As of 2/6/09, Bt sweet corn has not been approved for sale or planting—look for future updates.]

Bt Corn Growers—Chapter 41, Section 5

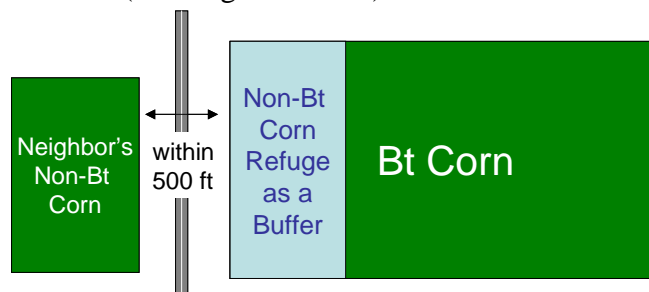
To purchase or use Bt corn, the grower must attend a Board-approved training session and possess a valid *Certificate to Purchase or Use Bt Corn*. The training certificate expires on December 31 of the second year after it is issued.

The following records must be kept for two years from the date of planting:

-  Site and planting information, including town and field location, a map showing crop location and refuge configuration in relation to adjacent crops within 500 feet that may be susceptible to cross-pollination.
-  Total acres planted with Bt corn and total acres planted as refuge, as well as seeding rates for both.
-  Pesticide records for any refuge treatment and planting information for each distinct site including: date/time of planting and brand name of Bt corn.

These records shall be kept on the farm and be available for Board inspectors upon request; the records may be declared confidential. There are no reporting requirements for growers. A sample *Bt Corn Records Log Sheet* is available at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/library/ or from the Board office.

If notified by a neighbor who will be planting non-Bt corn within 500 feet of your Bt-corn fields, unless otherwise agreed upon, Bt-corn growers must plant a 20% refuge of **non-Bt corn** in a block shape that minimizes the potential for pollen drift (see diagram below).



As with all outdoor pesticide “applications,” neighbors with sensitive areas within 500 feet of the Bt-corn planting have the right to request notification (CMR 01-026, Chapter 28, Section 1 [A]). Sensitive areas include, among other things, “cleared areas where livestock are contained or pastured, cultivated land, cropland or gardens” (CMR 01-026, Chapter 10, Section 2 [BBB] [11]). **This includes all non-Bt corn: organic corn, sweet corn and/or corn grown for seed.**

(continued on reverse)

Bt Corn Labels and Insect Resistance Management Guides

The Bt-corn labels and Insect Resistance Management (IRM) guides explain what a refuge is, why it is important and how to do it. What may not be obvious is that **if** resistance occurs, the use of the product and all other products with the same gene makeup may be taken away by EPA. Components of the refuge are: size (20% of the total corn needs to be refuge), proximity to Bt-corn (within, adjacent or within ½ mile; ¼ mile preferred), shape (4 to 12 rows, block, etc.), label-allowed corn varieties (maturing at the same time, etc.), allowed insecticide use (non-Bt based, only when an economic threshold is reached) and land use (it makes a difference if you are in continuous corn or in rotation). In addition to Board inspectors, the companies selling these products will be visiting to assure that the IRM is ongoing and that their grower agreements are working.

In addition to the IRM information, these documents also address pollen movement and Integrity Preserved production and that you, as a Bt-corn grower, know what markets are available.

Bt-Corn Seed Dealers—Chapter 41, Section 5

Bt-corn dealers must have a pesticide dealer's license to sell Bt-corn varieties. They must tell the Board of their intent to distribute Bt-corn varieties **and** let the Board know when they stop selling Bt corn.

Bt-corn dealers must keep sales records, showing a list of the names and addresses of all purchasers, for two years. These records must be available to Board inspectors at reasonable times; the records may be declared confidential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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