



Maine Board of Pesticides Control Factsheet

BT CORN IN MAINE

(revised April 2013)

Bt Corn Growers—BPC Regulation Chapter 41, Section 5

To plant Bt corn, the grower must attend a Board-approved training session and possess a valid *Certificate to Use Bt Corn*. The training certificate expires on December 31 of the third year after it is issued. Requirements include record keeping, buffer zones near non-Bt-corn, and licensing for seed dealers.

Record Keeping

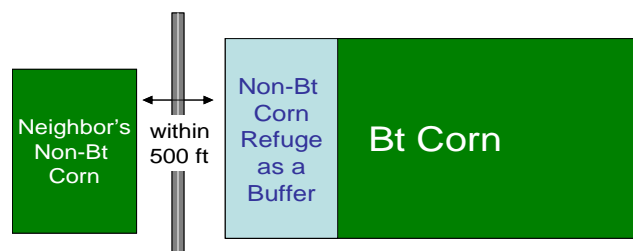
The following records must be kept for two years from the date of planting:

- 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.

Buffer Zones for Non-Bt corn

If you are planting a product that requires a separate refuge, e.g., Bt field corn, and are notified by a neighbor who will be planting non-Bt corn within 500 feet of your fields, unless otherwise agreed upon, Bt-corn growers must plant any refuge in a manner that minimizes the potential for pollen drift to the non-Bt corn (*see diagram below*).



The current rule requires that a 300-foot non-Bt-corn buffer be maintained if a grower requests a buffer and no refuge is required on the Bt-corn product label, e.g., Bt sweet corn. A Board policy adopted in February 2012 requires the same buffer for “refuge-in-the-bag (blended refuge) products.

Bt-Corn Seed Dealers

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.

Labels and Insect Resistance Management Guides for Bt Corn

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 a separate refuge are:

- Size (5% or 20% of the total corn planted 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).

Refuge in a bag is much simpler, no separate refuge is required. 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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