



User Instructions

Can-Block Fumigation Barrier Films

Can-Block provides protection against weeds, supports ideal microclimates for the growth of crops and reduces the loss of fumigants by emission to the atmosphere when applied properly.

STORAGE: **Can-Block** rolls not being used should always be stored in the original packing, away from moisture, direct light and heat sources. Furthermore, rolls must be transported with care and placed in a horizontal position and on a smooth surface in order to avoid crushing and deformations.

Accidental tears or deformations, due to incorrect storage or improper transportation can reduce the film fumigant barrier performance in the field.

WARNING: Do not use damaged film in combination with fumigants.

SOIL PREPARATION: For optimum results the soil must be loose and friable prior to laying of the mulch; stones, clods, undecomposed plant residues, and other objects that can puncture the mulch should be removed. The beds should be firm and well-formed (higher in the center) to allow for installation of the mulch without pockets or depressions and to permit quick water run-off.

WARNING: Water collected in depressions will reduce the lifespan of the mulch.

SOIL DISINFECTION: **Can-Block** reduces the size of a required buffer zone as determined by Federal and State Environmental Agencies for fumigants injected below the soil surface through either tractor-mounted

shanks or through drip tape for soil disinfestation.

WARNING: Before using a **Can-Block** product in combination with fumigants consult the webpage of the U.S. EPA www.epa.gov/soil-fumigants/tarps and/or your State Environmental Agency to determine its qualification for use with a particular fumigant and the amount of buffer zone reduction available for that particular fumigant to ensure compliance with fumigation regulation.

FILM LAYING: **Can-Block** can be laid using conventional plastic mulch laying equipment; however tension needs to be adjusted properly to reduce the likelihood of tearing.

It is recommended to bury the irrigation tape in the soil before the film is laid, which favors the mulch film integrity. Irrigation tapes placed directly underneath plastic mulch on the soil surface will start “wiggling”, caused by the water warming up inside the tube, causing short-term abrasion and tearing of the mulch film.

The mulch must be laid in continuous and tight contact with the soil and its edges secured with a generous amount of soil to avoid “whipping” in the wind. Whipping causes tearing of the mulch and abrasion on the stems of transplanted seedlings leading to plant death.

WARNING: Never apply **Can-Block** to excessively dry or wet soil to avoid loosening and whipping of the film, which





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can increase the level of fumigant emission through the film into the environment.

PLANTING HOLES: It is recommended to use sharp tools to prevent tearing of the mulch and making the smallest possible seedling holes with neat, clean edges that maximize soil coverage of the mulch.

WARNING: Dull cutting tools can cause tearing of fumigation films, including **Can-Block**.

LIFESPAN: The integrity of **Can-Block** on the soil depends on the film's thickness and on the interaction of a range of physical and environmental factors present in the field, including soil moisture, temperature, sunlight and agrochemicals applied.

Experience shows that **Can-Block** keeps its integrity for the length of at least one growing cycle of the crop to be transplanted, in general up to 9 months under regular conditions.

Crops grown on **Can-Block** can be treated with approved pest control and nutritional products when used according to label rates.

WARNING: Strong acid or alkaline fertilizer, pesticide formulations and/or adjuvants used for pesticide application as well as certain heavy metals containing micronutrient fertilizers can reduce the fumigant barrier properties of any fumigant barrier film, including **Can-Block**, as well as its integrity dramatically.

Do not use **Can-Block** for more than one crop growing season!

AFTER HARVEST: At the end of the crop cycle residual **Can-Block** can be safely recycled or disposed in compliance with county and state regulations.

WARNING: The National Organic Program (NOP) final rule (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA], 2000) requires removal of non-biodegradable plastic mulches like Can-Block from the field at the end of the season in Organic Vegetable Production.

