



## User Instructions

### Can-Grow Mulch Films

**Can-Grow** provides protection against weeds and supports ideal microclimates for the growth of crops when applied properly.

**STORAGE:** **Can-Grow** product rolls should always be stored in the original packaging, distant from direct sunlight and heat sources, in a dark, dry place and on a smooth surface. To avoid physical damage that may impact the laying and mulching performance of **Can-Grow** in the field, rolls should be kept in a horizontal position in order to avoid crushing and deformations caused by stacking and should be transported with care.

It is recommended to remove any damaged parts of the mulch film before use.

**WARNING:** Accidental tears or deformations, due to incorrect storage or transportation may reduce the film performance in the field.

**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.

**MULCH LAYING:** **Can-Grow** mulch 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, which promotes mulch film integrity.

Irrigation tapes placed directly underneath plastic mulch on the soil surface will start “wiggling”, caused by water warming up inside the tube. Wiggling of irrigation tubes will cause abrasion and tearing of the mulch film in the short-term. 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 mulch to excessively dry or wet soil, making it subject to loosening and whipping under normal soil moisture conditions.

**PLANTING HOLES:** It is recommended to use sharp tools and to make the smallest possible seedling holes with neat, clean edges that maximize soil coverage.

**WARNING:** Dull cutting tools can initiate tearing of mulch films, including **Can-Grow**.

**LIFESPAN:** The integrity of **Can-Grow** film on the soil depends on its thickness and 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-Grow** keeps its integrity for the length of at least one growing cycle of the crop to be transplanted, generally up to 9 months under regular conditions.



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Crops grown on **Can-Grow** 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 damage mulch films, including **Can-Grow**, and will reduce its lifespan dramatically.

Do not use the same **Can-Grow** film for more than one crop growing season!

**AFTER HARVEST:** At the end of the crop cycle residual **Can-Grow** can be safely recycled or disposed in compliance with state and local 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-Grow** from the field at the end of the season in Organic Vegetable Production.

