



User Instructions for Can-Shine Mulch Films

CAN-SHINE: Can-Shine mulch films provide protection against weeds and support ideal microclimates for the growth of crops. Its metal layer also provides early season insect and disease control in conventional and organic vegetable production when applied properly.

STORAGE: Can-Shine product rolls should always be stored in the original packaging, away from direct sunlight and heat, in a dark, dry place and on a smooth surface. To avoid physical damage that may impact the laying and performance of Can-Shine 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.

WARNING: Accidental tears, deformations, or metal layer loss due to incorrect storage or transportation may reduce the film performance in the field. It is recommended to remove the damaged parts of the mulch film before use.

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 can cause accelerated corrosion of the metal layer and reduce the lifespan of the mulch.

MULCH LAYING: Can-Shine 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 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 abrasion and tearing of the mulch film in the short-term.

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: Avoid excessive tension when laying films to prevent rupture of the metal surface. 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 to maximize soil coverage and resist tearing of the mulch.

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

LIFESPAN: The integrity of Can-Shine on the soil depends on the film’s thickness and the interaction of a range of physical and





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environmental factors present in the field, including soil moisture, temperature, sunlight and applied agrochemicals.

Agrochemicals are any chemical used in agriculture, including fertilizers, liming and acidifying agents for adjusting soil pH, soil conditioners, pesticides, plant growth accelerators and adjuvants used in pesticide formulations themselves or added to tank mixture spray solutions.

Crops grown on Can-Shine can be treated with pest control and nutritional products with a pH between 6.5 and 7.5 when used according to label rates.

Experience shows that the metal layer of Can-Shine keeps an effective reflectivity of at least 80% for the length of one crop growing cycle, generally up to 6 months on the field under regular conditions.

Note that certain micronutrients contain heavy metal that can cause discoloration of the metal layer and reduce the lifespan of the metalized film dramatically.

Before using natural irrigation water and/or applying agrochemicals, test their corrosive power on a small area over time.

WARNING: Do **NOT** use natural irrigation water and/or agrochemicals with a pH below 6.0 or above 7.5 on the film because they will destroy the reflective metal layer.

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

AFTER HARVEST: At the end of the crop cycle residual Can-Shine 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-Shine from the field at the end of the season in Organic Vegetable Production.

