

**Plastics Disposal Survey Results**  
**from**  
**164 Respondents\***

1. How many rolls of the following plastic do you use each year on your farm?

	Responses	Percentage	Total amt.	Ave./response
a. Mulch Film	<u>124</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>107,126 lb</u>	<u>865 lb</u>
b. Row Covers	<u>29</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>4,521 lb</u>	<u>156 lb</u>
c. Greenhouse Film	<u>52</u>	<u>32%</u>	<u>2,424 lb</u>	<u>50 lb</u>
d. Silage Wrap	<u>7</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>7,207 lb</u>	<u>1,030 lb</u>

2. How many of the following plastic items do you use each year on your farm?

	Responses	Percentage	Total amt.	Ave./response
a. Pesticide Containers(1 gal.)	<u>124</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>6,521 cont.</u>	<u>53 cont.</u>
b. Pesticide Containers(2 1/2 gal.)	<u>133</u>	<u>81%</u>	<u>3,876 cont.</u>	<u>29 cont.</u>
c. Nursery Pots	<u>46</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>159,086 pot</u>	<u>3,458 pot</u>
d. Nursery Trays & Flats (t&f)	<u>86</u>	<u>52%</u>	<u>104,911 t &amp; f</u>	<u>1,220 t&amp;f</u>
e. Silage Bags	<u>5</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>3.6 bags</u>	<u>18 bags</u>

3. Circle the method(s) in which you typically dispose of your used plastic.

	Responses	Percentage
a. Burn on the farm	<u>109</u>	<u>66%</u>
b. Bury on the farm	<u>22</u>	<u>13%</u>
c. Haul to a landfill	<u>45</u>	<u>27%</u>
d. Contract private hauler	<u>33</u>	<u>20%</u>
e. Use biodegradable films	<u>40</u>	<u>24%</u>
d. Other (please list)	<u>19</u>	<u>12%</u>

4. Circle the amount of plastic you dispose of which might contain some pesticide residue.

	Responses	Percentage
a. 90-100%	<u>13</u>	<u>8%</u>
b. 60-90%	<u>15</u>	<u>9%</u>
c. 40-60%	<u>13</u>	<u>8%</u>
d. 10-40%	<u>42</u>	<u>26%</u>
e. 0-10%	<u>79</u>	<u>48%</u>

5. If it cost you nothing more than shipping costs, circle the farthest distance that you would haul your used plastic for recycling or disposal.

	Responses	Percentage
a. Less than 10 miles	<u>36</u>	<u>22%</u>
b. 10-25 miles	<u>60</u>	<u>37%</u>
c. 25-50 miles	<u>40</u>	<u>24%</u>
d. 50-100 miles	<u>20</u>	<u>12%</u>
e. Over 100 miles	<u>4</u>	<u>2%</u>

\*This table was compiled from a survey taken at the annual meeting of PVGA held at Hershey on February 1-3, 1994. The survey was conducted by James Garthe and Paula Kowal, Dept. of Ag. & Bio. Engineering, Penn State University, Univ. Park, PA 16802.