

VT Golf Course Permit section of the Pesticide Regulations (2019 update)

9. Golf Course Permits:

A. No person shall use pesticide(s) on a golf course for the maintenance of turf without first obtaining a permit from the Secretary.

1. Initial permit applications for existing golf courses and new/proposed golf courses shall contain the following information:

- a) Name of the golf course
- b) Mailing address and golf course location, **phone and email address.**
- c) Golf course superintendent name
- d) Golf course officer name
- e) Date of application
- f) Golf course description as it exists or is designed which includes:
 - i. a site plan showing:
 - a. tees, greens and fairways
 - b. all surface water
 - c. all private water supplies on or abutting the property
 - d. all public water supplies on or abutting the property
 - e. property boundaries
 - f. Class I or II wetlands
 - g. buildings and uses
 - h. legend, scale and North designation
 - ii. Square footage of each green and tee and identification of each green or tee located within 100 feet of surface water
 - iii. Approximate acreage of fairways and roughs
 - iv. Surface acreage and average depth of ponded surface waters and identification of primary source of supply.
 - v. Soils map and key as mapped by the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- g) An Integrated Pest Management plan which includes:
 - i. A general statement of the policy and listing of the goals of the pest management plan
 - ii. A description of common pest problems being managed
 - iii. A description and rationale for the pest management strategies that are, or will be, employed including biological, chemical, and cultural control.
 - iv. A description of pest monitoring practices that are or will be used including pest or damage thresholds being used for treatment decision making
 - v. **A description of the location of pesticide storage and handling areas including a spill response plan**
 - vi. A description of irrigation practices used
 - vii. A description of any unique features or practices that may minimize pest pressure

- viii. A description of, and the location of, proposed buffer and no treatment areas established to protect surface water, groundwater or environmentally sensitive areas.
- ix. A nutrient management plan which shall include the following:
 - a) A brief description of the goals of the nutrient management plan
 - b) Identification of areas where nutrient applications will be made including greens, tees, fairways and roughs.
 - c) Soil sample results for each area receiving fertilizer applications. Areas receiving fertilizer applications shall be sampled once every three years. Soil samples shall be collected according to university recommendations or standard industry practice. Soil samples shall be analyzed for:
 - 1) Available phosphorus using Modified Morgan Extract.
 - 2) Potassium
 - 3) pH
 - 4) Reactive aluminum
 - 5) Soil organic matter
 - d) All land receiving fertilizer shall determine the potential for nitrogen transport using the nitrate leaching index.
 - e) Nutrient applications shall be based on soil test results, and must consider University recommendations and/or industry practice appropriate for the geographic area. Nutrient recommendations shall be consistent with results of the nitrate leaching index.
 - f) Soil sample results shall be maintained for 5 years.
- h) The integrated pest management plan and nutrient management plan shall be maintained at the golf course and be made available to the Secretary or his/her designee upon request.
- i) Pesticide Information: the following information must be provided for all pesticides being requested for use at the golf course:
 - i. Pesticide Product name and EPA Registration Number
 - ii. Active ingredient(s)
 - iii. Proposed rate of application, site of application, number of applications per year, acres to be treated and target pest for each application being considered
 - iv. Total annual amount of active ingredient being requested
 - v. Demonstration that use of the pesticide will not exceed ground or surface water standards using simple dilution analyses calculations or other methods approved by the Secretary. Reference standards shall be the Vermont Water Quality Standards for surface water and Vermont Drinking Water Standards for groundwater.

2. Permit Renewals:

- a) Permits shall be renewed annually. The following information shall be submitted annually in order to meet permit renewal requirements:
 - 1) A report of pesticide usage at the golf course on a form provided by the Agency.
 - 2) A report of fertilizer use that includes

- a) Total nitrogen and phosphorus used in the preceding calendar year
 - b) Totals broken down by site of application including tees, greens, fairways and roughs.
 - c) Average rate of nitrogen and phosphorus use per acre (or per 1000 sq. ft.) by site of application.
 - 3) Requests for any additional pesticides. Requests for additional pesticides shall include the information required in Section 9. A. 1. i).
 - 4) An affidavit, signed by a golf course officer and the golf course superintendent, that the golf course is in compliance with all permit requirements and applicable rules and law.
3. Permits and permit amendments issued by the Secretary:
 - a. Shall be conditioned on the operation of the golf course according to an approved integrated pest management plan.
 - b. Buffer strips to protect surface waters, groundwater or other environmentally sensitive areas shall be established. Standard buffers where pesticides shall not be applied shall be established as follows (unless larger buffers are specified in the golf course management plan or a previously issued golf course permit for the facility):
 - i. 100 feet from all private drinking water supplies and public transient drinking water supplies
 - ii. 200 feet from all public, non-transient drinking water supplies
 - iii. 25 feet from all flowing surface waters and Class II wetlands
 - iv. 10 feet from impounded surface waters wholly on the golf course property.
 - v. 25 feet from impounded surface waters not wholly on the golf course property.

Buffer requirements may be modified upon written request to the Secretary and shall be considered on a case by case basis.
 - c. May require sampling and analysis of ground and/or surface water as condition to the use of the pesticide.
 - d. For a new golf course or golf course expansion shall be conditioned on the course being built as is represented in the application. The Secretary may require the applicant to submit proof within 60 days after completion.
4. The Secretary shall issue or deny the permit or permit amendment after consideration of risk to human health and the environment, the integrated pest management plan and the past compliance history of the golf course. The Secretary may restrict or deny the use of a pesticide in accordance with 6 V.S.A. Section 1104(3) and other applicable provisions of the law. Applicants aggrieved by a decision of the Secretary under this section may request a hearing within fifteen days of the receipt of notice of the decision.

5. Golf Courses shall keep and maintain operating records as follows:

a) For each application of pesticides:

- 1) Date and time of application
- 2) Site of application (tee, green, fairway, rough etc.)
- 3) Pesticide used and EPA Registration Number
- 4) Amount of pesticide product used
- 5) Active ingredient(s) in product applied
- 6) Pounds of active ingredient(s) applied
- 7) Pest treated for
- 8) Weather conditions at the time of application

b) Records for fertilizer/nutrient application shall be kept and include; at a minimum, the following:

- 1) Date of application
- 2) Site of application (tee, green, fairway, rough etc.)
- 3) Grade/analysis of fertilizer applied
- 4) Area of application in acres or square feet
- 5) Amount of product used
- 6) Nitrogen recommendation that fertilizer use is based upon
- 7) Phosphorus recommendation that fertilizer use is based upon
- 8) Amount of N and P applied per thousand square feet

c) Records shall be maintained for a period of 5 years and shall be made available to the Secretary or his/her designee upon request.

d) Maintenance of records and report of pesticide use as provided in 2. a) 1) and 5. a) and shall exempt golf course certified applicators from the reporting requirements of Section V.2,4 and 6.