

PARAQUAT INFORMATION FOR VERMONT GROWERS

Act 112 - An act relating to prohibiting the use and sale of the herbicide paraquat was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor on May 26, 2026. This law will take effect on **November 1, 2026**, and will prohibit all sales and uses of paraquat except when authorized by the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (the Agency).

After November 1, 2026, the only authorized uses for paraquat will be for tree fruit producers and producers of berries and small fruits as defined by the USDA Crop Group 13-07, which includes strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries. No other uses will be allowed.

The sale and use of paraquat will be authorized by permits issued by the Secretary. Vermont growers wishing to use paraquat will apply for a permit from the Agency which will incorporate the permit conditions specified in Act 112. The permit will be valid for no more than three years or until **December 31, 2030**, whichever comes first. Upon receipt and review of a permit application from a Vermont Certified Pesticide Applicator, the Agency may issue a permit for use of a paraquat product with permit conditions to require:

- the brand name and EPA Registration Number of the paraquat product to be used
- identification of the intended crops to which the permit applies.
- the date the permit takes effect.
- the permit duration and geographic scope, including specific farms, fields, or properties.
- application only in conditions that minimize drift.
- adherence to label directions to minimize applicator exposure.
- that applications are limited to tree rows or vine rows for necessary weed control.

Growers applying for a permit to use paraquat will have to:

- maintain a current Certified Applicator License in the appropriate Category 1A – Agricultural Plants or Private Applicator License
- have completed label-required paraquat training within one year of the permit issuance (documented by Certificate of Completion of Training)
- provide proof of possession of a closed transfer system for mixing and loading of paraquat products

The Agency will make permit applications available to Vermont growers on November 1, 2026, on our website at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide-program>

Questions? – Email us at AGR.PlantIndustry@vermont.gov



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Additional Information:

Link to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop Group 13-07: Berry and Small Fruit

<https://www.ir4project.org/fc/crop-grouping/crop-group-tables/#1524751173061-96784507-ffae>)

Link to text of Act 112:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/act-112-act-relating-prohibiting-use-and-sale-herbicide-paraquat>

Note: Only use pesticide products registered in Vermont. To verify registration status of a paraquat product go to:

<https://usaplants.vermont.gov/usaplants/ProductRegFSA/BrandSearch.aspx>

Search by product name or EPA registration number.