

RECYCLING HORTICULTURAL PLASTICS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

MULCH & OTHER THIN FILMS

- **CUT** into pieces of size & weight one person can handle
- **BRUSH** or **SHAKE** to remove clumps of soil, stones, plant matter. Split mulch film down the middle and roll away from plants
- **ROLL** or **FOLD DRY FILM** into bundles about size of a large pillow (2'x3'). Stuff bags into a bag of the same type

HIGH TUNNELS, HOOPHOUSE COVERS

- **CUT INTO SECTIONS** to FEED “NIP ROLLER”
Dimensions of sections will depend on thickness and flexibility of film

RIGID PLASTIC POTS, TRAYS, CONTAINERS, DRIP TAPE

- **STACK** nursery pots & trays
Knock out loose soil. Stack. Tie onto a pallet or compress with baler
- **CHEMICAL CONTAINERS:** Triple rinse to clean.
See Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) website: <<http://www.acrecycle.org/>>

STORING PLASTIC, MAKING BALES

- **STORE UNDER COVER:** Clean, dry as possible.
E.g., Store in a barn, shed, trailer, or outside under a tarp.
- **DO NOT MIX DIFFERENT PRODUCTS IN ONE BALE**
Separate clean films from dirtier. No PVC accepted.
- **BALING:** Make full bales (1000–1200 lb). Label with permanent marker: type of material, date, contact name/phone/location.

RECYCLING AG PLASTICS PROJECT

Life Cycle Stewardship of Agricultural Plastics

<http://environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/AgPlastics>

Developing infrastructure and markets for waste film and rigid plastics from dairy, livestock & horticulture. A collaboration of Cornell University with agriculture producers and agriculture, environment, economic development and solid waste/recycling agencies, organizations and businesses. Funding from the NY Farm Viability Institute, NYS DEC Environmental Protection Fund, US EPA Region 2 Pollution Prevention, USDA Rural Utilities Services, USDA Hatch/Smith-Lever.