
• RAPP •

RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS PROJECT

Developing infrastructure & markets for recycling waste film & rigid plastics from all sectors of agriculture
A Cornell University collaboration

RECYCLE PLASTIC MAPLE TAPPING SUPPLIES

Why?

- Recycling removes plastic litter from the woods.
- Recycling keeps discarded plastic out of landfills: Producers save the cost of disposal tipping fees. Communities conserve valuable landfill space. Taxpayers save \$\$—new landfills are expensive!
- Recycling makes new products out of old, conserving and re-using the non-renewable fossil resources that most plastics are made from.



Here's how:

- **Coil used tubing into loops ~ 3' in diameter.** Keep coils light enough to lift.
- **Tie coils** with baling twine, duct tape, dropline, or with a strip of plastic film (e.g., silage bag film). Do not use baler wire or other metal.
- **Put short lengths of tubing** into a large plastic bag ('tote') or Gaylord box. If using totes, cut the internal strapping to maximize capacity.
- **No need to remove *plastic* fittings:** spouts, check valves, tees, connectors, etc.
- **Do remove *metal*** connectors, clasps, spouts, supporting wires, etc.
- **Keep tubing out of mud and gravel.** Grit and gravel destroy recycling equipment.
- **Separate out and discard PVC tubing & fittings** (polyvinyl chloride, #3 plastic). Identify PVC with a simple sink-float test: Put a 2" piece of tubing into a jar of water. PVC tubing will sink. Polyethylene tubing floats. RAPP does not accept PVC tubing primarily because it releases toxic emissions during processing.
- **Label each coil or bag** with your *name* and *contact information*. Use a permanent black marker. Write on the tubing or on a tag.

What happens next:

- RAPP-sponsored collections of NYS maple tubing will begin in Spring 2013. Future collections will take place at winter maple producer meetings and other venues. Collection dates and locations will be announced on the listservs and newsletters of New York State and regional maple producer associations.
- Maple tubing and other discarded agricultural plastics are being transformed into new products such as a plastic 'plywood' substitute ideally suited for damp places where plywood rots. Much of the processing is happening right here in Upstate New York!

Find us on **facebook**: **Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP)**

agplasticsrecycling@cornell.edu

Office phone: 607-255-4765. Field office phone: 607-216-7242