

Plasticulture Equipment Rental Cash Back Program for N.C. Small Farmers

Using plasticulture as a production method for growing fruits and vegetables has its advantages. Plasticulture has been proven to increase yield (up to three times greater), improve weed control and watering efficiency (water savings of up to 90 percent) and reduce fertilizer costs due to a targeted, more efficient use of applied nutrients. To help the state's small farmers experience the advantage of these benefits, N.C. A&T Cooperative Extension implemented a Plasticulture Equipment Rental/Cash Back Program that is operated through certain local Cooperative Extension Centers. Below are some frequently asked questions about the Plasticulture Equipment Rental/Cash Back Program.

Who can rent the equipment?

Any North Carolina small farmer who wants to try plasticulture to grow crops. We may ask you to share your yield information with us for record keeping and impact reporting.

What equipment is available?

Mulch layers and lifters are available for daily rental at the following N.C. Cooperative Extension County Centers - Franklin, Guilford, Martin, Rowan and Sampson counties. Watauga and Yancey counties have some limited equipment for rental. The borrower is responsible for providing a trailer to transport the equipment to his/her farm, proper use and the return of the equipment in a timely manner.

How do I rent the equipment?

The equipment will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the county-based staff member in the Extension Center nearest to you to request an application and to be placed on the loan schedule. The equipment is not officially **reserved** until the **rental application** and the **waiver of liability** form are completed, signed and returned to the county Extension Center. Proper identification will be required when the equipment is picked up. The equipment cannot be rented for more than three days at a time.

How do I return the equipment?

The equipment should be returned to the location where it was picked up on the date indicated on the application. Any farmer who does not return the equipment when promised may not be allowed to rent it again and could be subject to a late fee. The equipment should be cleaned before it is returned. If you are an organic farmer please note that you are responsible for cleaning the equipment to meet organic certification standards.

Does it cost to rent the equipment?

Yes. Rental costs are based on the length of use. Half of the rental fee will be refunded if the equipment is returned on time, clean and undamaged.

One-day rental - \$50 due at pick up - \$25 returned if equipment is returned undamaged and clean.

Two-day rental - \$100 due at pick up - \$50 returned if equipment is returned undamaged and clean.

Three-day rental - \$150 due at pick up - \$75 returned if equipment is returned undamaged and clean.

You will lose the other half of your rental fee if the equipment is not returned on time.



How Do I Pay the Rental Fee?

When the equipment is picked up, the farmer should provide both of the following:

1. A **money order or cashier's check** for half of the total rental amount. This payment will be sent to N.C. A&T State University.
2. A **personal check** for the other half of the rental fee, also payable to N.C. A&T State University. This check will be held at the Extension Center and returned to the farmer if the equipment is returned undamaged, clean and on time.

Make sure to include the wording "Plasticulture rental fee" on the memo line of both checks.

Example: If a farmer rents the machine for three days, the rental cost is \$150.

A money order or cashier's check for \$75, half of the total amount and payable to N.C. A&T State University, should be given to the Cooperative Extension agent. The agent will mail this payment to A&T. As well, a personal check for the remaining \$75 and payable to N.C. A&T State University should be given to the Cooperative Extension agent. This check will be returned to the farmer if the equipment is returned undamaged, clean and on time.



N.C. A&T plasticulture equipment locations

County-owned plasticulture equipment available for rental.

See next page for detailed contact information

N.C. A&T Plasticulture Equipment Locations and Equipment Specifications

Guilford County

Contact- Randy Fulk, 336-285-4664, rafulk@ncat.edu

N.C. A.&T University Farm, 3136 McConnell Rd., Greensboro, N.C. 27411

Equipment Available:

- Nolts RB436 plastic layer for 3-foot plastic (requires 25 - 30 HP tractor)
- Nolts RB446 plastic layer for 3- or 4-foot plastic (requires 30 – 35 HP tractor)
- RainFlo 1800 mulch lifter (requires 55 HP tractor)

Martin County

Contact- Cecil Sumner, 252-789-4370, cecil_sumner@ncsu.edu

Martin County Cooperative Extension Center, 104 Kehukee Park Rd., Williamston, N.C. 27892

Equipment Available:

- Nolts RB436 plastic layer for 3-foot plastic (requires 25 - 30 HP tractor)
- Nolts RB446 plastic layer for 3- or 4-foot plastic (requires 30 – 35 HP tractor)
- RainFlo 1800 mulch lifter (requires 55 HP tractor)

Rowan County

Contact- Amy-Lynn Albertson, 704-216-8970, amy_albertson@ncsu.edu

Rowan County Cooperative Extension Center, 2727 Old Concord Rd., Salisbury, N.C. 28146

Equipment Available:

- Nolts RB436 plastic layer for 3-foot plastic (requires 25 - 30 HP tractor)
- Nolts RB446 plastic layer for 3- or 4-foot plastic (requires 30 – 35 HP tractor)
- RainFlo 1800 mulch lifter (requires 55 HP tractor)

Sampson County

Contact- James Hartsfield, 910-592-7161, james_hartsfield@ncsu.edu

Sampson County Cooperative Extension Center, 55 Agriculture Place, Clinton, N.C. 28328

Equipment Available:

- Nolts RB436 plastic layer for 3-foot plastic (requires 25 - 30 HP tractor)
- Nolts RB446 plastic layer for 3- or 4-foot plastic (requires 30 – 35 HP tractor)
- RainFlo 1800 mulch lifter (requires 55 HP tractor)

Contact the following locations to find out the rules and requirements for equipment use. The information contained in this document only applies to the equipment in the counties listed above. The counties below may have additional equipment use rules.

Watauga County

Contact- Richard Boylan, 828-264-3061, richard_boylan@ncsu.edu

Watauga County Center, 971 W King St., Boone, N.C. 28607

Equipment Available:

- Nolts RB436 plastic layer for 3-foot plastic (requires 25 - 30 HP tractor)
- Reddick YF203-90B plastic layer adjustable up to 54" plastic (requires 55 HP tractor)
- RainFlo 1800 mulch lifter (requires 55 HP tractor)

Yancey County

Contact- Adam McCurry, 828-682-6186, adam_mccurry@ncsu.edu

30 E U.S. Highway 19 East BYP, Burnsville, N.C. 28714

Equipment Available:

RainFlo 2600 plastic layer for 4- or 5-foot plastic (requires 70 HP tractor)

Franklin County

Contact -Charles Mitchell, 919-496-3344, cfmitche@ncsu.edu

Contact –William Landis, 252-257-3640, wllandis@ncsu.edu

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Center, 103 S Bickett Blvd., Louisburg, N.C. 27549

Equipment Available:

Nolts RB448 plastic mulch layer, for 3' or 4' plastic (requires 30-35 HP tractor)