ACRC
AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Colorado

422,000+ lbs.	22,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
Colorado Collected Since 1993	Colorado 5-Year Average	National Collected Since 1992	National Average / Year

ACRC Program

ACRC is a not-for-profit trade association representing the agricultural chemicals industry. Founded in February 1992, ACRC funds, operates, and promotes a nationwide producer-responsibility program for the collection and recycling of triple- or pressure-rinsed, empty, one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural chemical containers (all types, up to 55 gallons) — including crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and adjuvant/surfactant containers. With over 70 Regular (manufacturers and formulators of agricultural products) and Affiliate (manufacturers of HDPE containers or container components) Members, the program is entirely funded through member dues — a true producer-responsibility model that has operated successfully for over three decades.

Colorado Program

In Colorado, ***G. Phillips & Sons*** serves as ACRC's contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farms statewide. Since the program began, ACRC has collected and recycled more than 422,000 pounds of agricultural container plastic in Colorado. ACRC remains committed to continued investment in and expansion of the Colorado program, which achieved a record 44,000 pounds recycled in 2025—double the five-year average. Collection occurs at, ag retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), rural landfills, golf courses, nurseries, and greenhouses. No collection fee to growers or commercial applicators in most cases.

Stewardship Plan

Core Principles	ACRC's Existing Practices
Producer-funded stewardship	ACRC has operated a fully member-funded, statewide Colorado collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or taxpayers.
Public education, outreach and communication	Bilingual (English/Spanish) triple-rinsing videos, free brochures, posters, and checklists; multilingual "Clean Means Clean" visual aids; presentations to universities, extension agencies, ag chemical trade associations, and aerial applicators; and promotion at major agricultural events.
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	Statewide Colorado collection network operated through contractor G. Phillips & Sons, with permanent drop-off sites and seasonal collection events at farms, ag retailers, and applicator locations; over 2,500 collection sites nationwide.
Reduce environmental and human health impacts through waste reduction, reuse, recycling	Mandatory triple-/pressure-rinse protocol (ANSI/ASABE S596, developed with ACRC's involvement) achieves 99.99%[1] active-ingredient removal before containers are chipped and recycled. Reuse-first practices are an option for larger containers designed as returnable/refillable under EPA regulations.
Responsible end markets	Collected containers are triple rinsed, chipped, and then recycled into approved productive end uses, such as agricultural drainpipe, landscape edging, nursery pots, industrial pallets, and other durable products, all rigorously vetted by the ACRC Technical Committee.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member sales surveys are compared against pounds collected; Colorado program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

Continuous Growth

- Encouraging and educating growers and applicators to recycle containers with ACRC contractors
- Identifying additional locations in Colorado that could serve as ACRC collection sites
- Strengthening outreach partnerships - agricultural agencies, extension services, retailers, and applicator associations
- Connecting manufacturers of approved HDPE end-use products with ACRC program contractors

[1] EPA 40 CFR 156.146; 165.25; 2006 Container and Containment Rule