

## 4 Sprayer Information

### 4.1 Solutions for Safer Spraying

#### 4.1.1 Reducing Risk of Pesticide Exposure Through Use of Engineering Controls

Because handling and applying pesticides is risky business, keeping pesticide exposure to a minimum should be a chief concern of any pesticide applicator. To reduce the risks associated with handling and applying pesticides, devices known as engineering controls can be used that help to reduce or practically eliminate exposure to toxic chemicals. This section describes various engineering controls that can help reduce applicator exposure to pesticides in five areas of potential contamination.

#### 4.1.2 Areas of Potential Contamination

##### 1. Loading the Sprayer

**Closed Transfer Systems** - Closed transfer systems allow concentrated pesticide to be moved from the original shipping container to the sprayer mix tank with minimal or no applicator contact. Many systems provide a method to measure the concentrated pesticide. Some systems also include a container rinsing system. Currently available closed transfer systems use a probe inserted into the pesticide container, a connector on the container that mates to a similar connector on the application equipment, or a vacuum-type (venturi) system that uses flowing water to transfer the chemical from the container.

**Induction Bowls** - Induction bowls are metal, plastic or fiberglass hoppers attached to the side of the sprayer or nurse tank that allow pesticides to be added to the mix tank without the applicator climbing onto the spray rig. Pesticides are poured into the bowl and water is added to flush out the bowl and carry the pesticide to the spray tank. Often a rinse nozzle is mounted inside the bowl for rinsing out empty pesticide containers. Typically induction bowls are raised out of the way during spraying and lowered to about 3 feet above ground when loading the sprayer.

**Direct Pesticide Injection System** - Direct pesticide injection systems allow pesticides to be mixed directly with water in the sprayer plumbing system rather than in the main spray tank. The pesticide is pumped from its container and mixed with the water either in a manifold or at the main water pump. Only clean water is held in the main tank of the sprayer. An electronic controller and up to four pumps adjust the amount of concentrated pesticide that is injected into the water stream, allowing for variable application rates.

**Container Rinse System** - Container rinse systems consist of a rinse nozzle and a catch bowl that traps the container washings (rinsate). The empty container is placed over the rinse nozzle and a jet of water cleans the inside of the container. The rinsate caught in the bowl is pumped into the

spray tank to be used along with the spray mixture. Often rinse nozzles are installed in chemical induction bowls. Most closed transfer systems also provide a way of rinsing containers and piping the rinse water into the spray tank.

##### 2. Reducing Contamination at the Boom

**Boom Folding/Extending** - Manually folding booms can be a major source of operator contamination because the boom can be covered with pesticide from drift or dripping nozzles. Consider the use of hydraulic or mechanical folding methods.

**Diaphragm Check Valves** - Typically, when a sprayer is shut off and as the system pressure drops, any liquid remaining in the boom piping drips from the nozzles, possibly dripping onto the boom or even the operator. Diaphragm check valves installed at each nozzle prevent this by using a spring-loaded rubber diaphragm to close off the flow of liquid once the system pressure drops below about 10 pounds per square inch. When the sprayer is switched on and system pressure builds up, the valve opens and allows the liquid to flow through the nozzles.

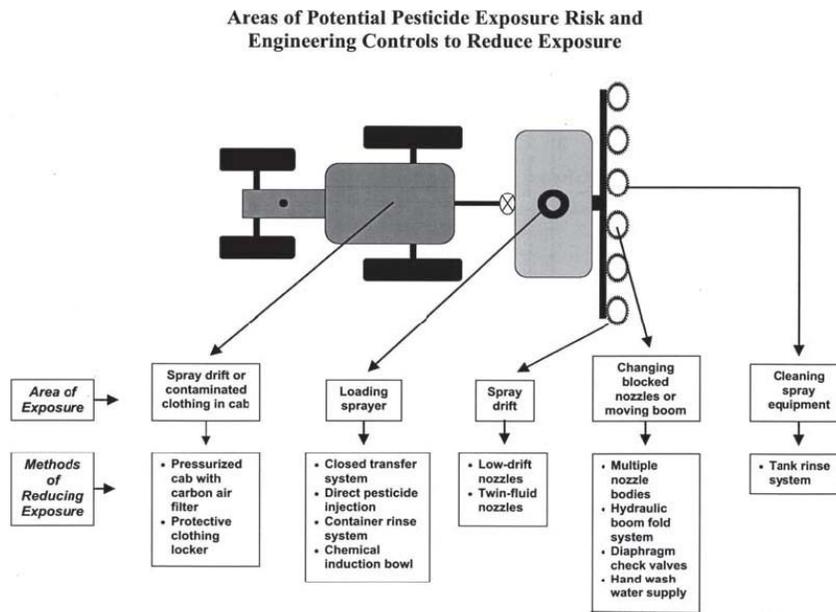
**Multiple Nozzle Bodies** - Contamination can occur when operators change or unclog nozzles during an application. Multiple nozzle bodies (or turret nozzles) allow operators to switch between nozzles with a turn of the nozzle body rather than having to unscrew or undo a threaded or a bayonet fitting.

**Hand Wash Water Supply** - Providing adequate wash water is essential (and often required). A simple container with a hand-operated valve can be mounted on the side of the sprayer to provide clean water for hand washing and personal hygiene.

##### 3. Protecting from Drift and Contaminated Clothing in Cabs

**Cab Filtration Using Carbon Filters** - Carbon filtration systems are used to remove pesticide odor and pesticide-laden mist from fresh air used in a tractor or self-propelled sprayer cab. Carbon filtration systems are often a standard feature on self-propelled sprayers. Now many factory installed tractor cabs offer optional filtration systems. In 1998, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) adopted testing standards for operator cabs used in pesticide application. Cabs certified under this standard meet the requirements for enclosed cabs contained in the Worker Protection Standard.

**Protective Clothing Lockers** - To prevent contamination of the tractor or sprayer cab interior, entering the cab. A few sprayer companies offer a simple compartment (or



locker) mounted to the side or front of the sprayer where protective clothing can be stored. Alternatively a locker can be fitted to the nurse tank.

#### 4. Controlling Drift

**Low-Drift Nozzles** - Low-drift nozzles create larger-size droplets than conventional nozzles. The larger droplet sizes are less prone to drift, reducing environmental and operator contamination.

**Air Induction (Twin Fluid) Nozzles** - These nozzles allow air to mix with the spray liquid, creating large, air-filled droplets that have virtually no fine, drift-prone droplets. The droplets explode when they contact their target and offer similar coverage to droplets from conventional, finer-spray nozzles.

#### 5. Cleaning the Sprayer

**Tank Rinse Systems** - Tank rinse systems consist of a clean water supply tank mounted to the sprayer and one or more rotating discs or nozzles mounted inside the main sprayer tank. Water is pumped from the clean water tank to the rinse nozzles, which spray water around the inside of the spray tank. These systems are designed for in-field rinsing of the sprayer so that the tank washings can be applied to the field at label rates.

### 4.2 Minimizing Pesticide Drift in Orchards Part I

Disease and insect control is a critical factor in most commercial orchards. While such control may, in some seasons, be a small proportion of crop value, there is a demand from growers for increased efficiency of spraying.

Attention to detail is necessary to improve efficiency of deposition, reduce drift and increase sprayer output.

As an apple grower on Long Island once stated, drift management is all in the mind; it requires the grower to think about reducing drift before the legislators apply controls.

Spray drift of pesticides is an important and costly problem facing pesticide applicators. Drift results in damage to susceptible off-target crops, environmental contamination to waterways and a lower than intended rate to the target crop, thus reducing the effectiveness of the pesticide.

Pesticide drift also affects neighboring properties, often leading to concern and debate. As more people choose to live in the picturesque setting of an orchard and growers continue to sell plots to increase their revenue, so the debate will continue.

There are two types of drift, airborne drift, often very noticeable, and vapor drift. The amount of vapor drift will depend upon atmospheric conditions such as humidity, temperature and the product being applied, and can occur days after an application is made. Drift is influenced by many interrelated factors including droplet size, nozzle type and size, sprayer design, weather conditions and, last but not least, the operator.

#### 4.2.1 Drift Factors

##### 4.2.1.1 Droplet Size

In the past, trees were drenched with high volumes and coarse droplets at 200–400 gallons per acre, resulting in trees dripping with excess pesticide. The belief that too much is better than too little is misplaced. Dripping trees

lead to environmental pollution such as soil contamination and an excessive number of tank loads per acre results in poor time management.

Lower volumes must be used, which may result in smaller droplets, although there is a limit to droplet size because of concerns about drift. Droplets under 150 microns generally pose the greatest hazard; droplets less than 50 microns have insufficient momentum for impaction as they remain suspended in the air indefinitely or until they evaporate. Research in England concluded that a 100-micron droplet takes 11 seconds approximately to fall ten feet in still air; when a similar size droplet is released into a 5mph wind it will drift about 75 feet before hitting the ground.

The higher the operating pressure, the smaller the droplet; conversely, low pressure produces large droplets that may bounce off the target. Traditional air blast sprayers give the greatest cause for concern as they produce many small droplets, which are often off-target. Certain spray surfactants can change the droplet spectrum, reducing the number of driftable droplets.

#### *4.2.1.2 Nozzle Type and Size*

Modern nozzle technology such as air inclusion nozzles produce larger droplets than conventional cone nozzles. Large droplets normally roll off the leaf, but air inclusion nozzles create air bubbles within the larger droplets, which then collapse on contact with the leaf, dissipating the energy and dispersing the liquid. Recent research in England and Germany has shown promising results using air inclusion nozzles with air blast sprayers in trees and bushes, although further trials are necessary in apple orchards.

Rotary atomizers create smaller, more uniform droplets, which would normally drift. When used in conjunction with a tower and cross-flow fan design, the smaller droplets are actually directed into the canopy. This type of sprayer, referred to by some as controlled droplet application, produces 95–98% of its droplets all of the same size. The size produced depends on the speed of the spinning cage. Advantages include less water, resulting in better timeliness and a more targeted spray. Research in the US and Europe shows that small droplets on target are effective at controlling diseases and insects.

#### *4.2.1.3 Sprayer Design*

Tower sprayers and tunnel sprayers are better at targeting the spray into the canopy, reducing drift and increasing deposition. The conventional air blast sprayer sends droplets in an air blast from a central fan upwards into the canopy. The tower sprayer, using an air curtain, and rotary atomizer, was developed by agricultural engineers at Michigan State University ten years ago and has shown excellent results at disease and insect control. Horizontal penetration into the canopy is preferential to vertical

penetration from an air blast sprayer. Tunnel sprayers, developed many years ago in Europe and the US, have tremendous advantages in managed orchards using trellis designs and dwarf trees. The use of a spray collection device at the base of the tunnel canopy results in the ability to recirculate spray with subsequent savings in pesticide and a reduction in drift. Many growers believe that tunnel sprayers are only suitable for level land, but an increasing number are to be found in orchards on undulating land.

Drift problems increase when a space occurs within the row. Air blast sprayers, with or without a tower, can be fitted with ultrasonic or laser canopy sensors. The sensors also detect the shape of a tree and adjust the spray pattern accordingly. The advantages include reduced drift and ground deposition, reduced pesticide use and improved logistics.

Herbicide drift from weed control practices should not be forgotten; shielded herbicide sprayers prevent drift from contaminating apples and damaging leaves. Shields can vary from the simple to the complex, from hydraulic flat fan nozzles to controlled droplet applicators using reduced herbicide rates. Shielded sprayers allow growers to apply herbicides in variable weather conditions.

#### *4.2.1.4 Sprayer Calibration*

Correct calibration will ensure that all the nozzles are discharging the correct amount of liquid at the correct distance and angle to the target and at the correct forward speed. Operators must set the air deflectors correctly to confine airflow, spray and disturbance to the tree canopy.

#### *4.2.1.5 Weather*

Wind speed and direction, relative humidity, temperature and atmospheric stability affects drift. Applying the correct product to the correct target at the correct time with the correct equipment is the key to good spraying.

Research in England and New Zealand has been conducted to measure the effectiveness of shelterbelts (windbreaks). Natural and artificial belts were used and drift is reduced closer to the shelterbelt. Shelter belt height and density will affect drift, and may, in certain conditions, create additional air currents and eddies. There are so many variables such as topography and wind direction that it is difficult to conclude that research at one site is transferable to another. It is worth noting that German growers face federal drift-measuring programs to ensure a safe buffer zone of up to 150 feet, resulting in severe restrictions for some growers.

#### *4.2.1.6 Forward Planning*

Forward planning is the key to good management”, a phrase often used by successful business managers, also applies to orchard management. Choose the correct size sprayer with good back-up support to ensure that spraying may be done

in a timely manner. Far too often, growers are racing around orchards in an attempt to apply pesticides after a problem disease or insect attack has occurred. Good logistical support in reducing the need to return for frequent refills is so important. The use of orchard field cards, detailing: the block, pesticide required, application rate, quantity required per tank fill, etc., will reduce stress levels found amongst some applicators and will improve efficiency and safety. Integrated pest management (IPM), including monitoring of pests and disease forecasts, should be conducted to allow sufficient time to apply a needed pesticide in the area to be sprayed.

Continuing development of spray application techniques will improve the efficiency of orchard spraying. Many of the factors that affect application and drift are interdependent. Airflows must be optimized, particularly where smaller droplets are used; crop canopies and water volumes must be carefully considered if growers are to take advantage of new technologies. Investment levels in modern technology must be maintained if the grower is to remain competitive.

## 4.3 Minimizing Pesticide Drift in Orchards Part II

### 4.3.1 Before Spraying:

1. Train the operator to use the sprayer correctly on your farm under your conditions.
2. Plan the spraying operation; consider the use of orchard field cards as a good management tool.
3. Read and follow the pesticide label.
4. Select the correct nozzle for the target. Adjust the size and position of the nozzles to achieve correct distribution within the canopy, particularly as the growing season progresses.
5. Consider the use of sprayers that direct the spray to the target, such as towers and tunnels. Check that air deflectors are set properly to confine disturbance to the target.
6. Consider spray additives to reduce drift.
7. Improve spraying logistics to ensure adequate time to spray within “ideal” conditions.
8. Only spray when weather conditions are ideal; avoid spraying on days when conditions are favorable for atmospheric inversion or wind drift.
9. Calibrate the sprayer with water to ensure that everything is working correctly.
10. Start planting windbreaks!

### 4.3.2 During Spraying:

1. Stay alert: ensure the spray is not allowed to drift on to non-target areas and watch for changes in wind speed and direction.
2. Keep spray pressure as low as possible and ensure an accurate gauge is used.

3. Maintain a constant speed and pressure, if an automatic regulator is fitted; remember, small increases in speed result in large increases in pressure. The delivered air and spray must be given time to penetrate the canopy.
4. Avoid spraying near sensitive crops or waterways; use a 50–100-ft buffer zone. Spray inwards, with one side of the sprayer, for at least 50 feet from the boundary to create a “headland”.

### 4.3.3 A Case Study

The orchard that the spray drift has been coming from has 20-foot row spacing, 17-foot tree spacing, 9- to 10-foot high trees, and a no-spray buffer zone with a 10-foot wide hedgerow acting as a windbreak. Farmer Brown would like to stop any drift from reaching his neighbor’s property.

#### 4.3.3.1 Method:

1. Monitoring equipment. Purchase and use good quality instruments for wind speed, temperature and humidity.
2. Nozzle orientation: To see where the spray is actually going, Farmer Brown needs to set up a system to check his sprayer plume. One method is to use a patternator. Another method is to use a 16-foot high pole (two 8’ 2”x4” boards end to end) with a paper tape stapled along the leading edge. Place the pole between two trees within the row and spray a mixture of clean water and food coloring. Travel between the rows, spraying out the mixture. The spray will stain the paper where it hits. By looking at the colored spray droplets on the paper, Farmer Brown can alter the orientation of the nozzles or deflectors until the spray is only hitting the portion of the vertical pole/trees that is desirable.
3. Air Induction Nozzles (AI): These nozzles, when used properly, can reduce drift by at least 50 percent. The principle behind these nozzles is to create a larger droplet that won’t drift as far but still maintain good leaf and fruit coverage. Note, not all AI nozzles are the same. Remember, it is critical to orientate the nozzles as in step 1 above. Wilger and Lechler manufacture air-assist units to enable AI and hollow cone nozzles to be switched on/off from the tractor.
4. End Plates: In situations where only one side of the sprayer is required, a shroud can be used to block any air on the opposite side of the sprayer. On the last couple of rows in the orchard you can spray inwards. This way you can reduce drift by 50 percent.
5. Foliage Sensors: These sensors tell whether or not the sprayer is next to a tree, automatically shutting the spray off if no tree is present. There are ultrasonic or infrared sensor types that, if used properly, reduce your overspray and drift by 50 percent.
6. Hail Nets: The use of hail nets is a good way to reduce drift. Overhead hail nets can reduce drift up to 75 percent. Hail nets can also be used as a barrier to break up the wind.
7. Tower sprayers are better at targeting the spray into the canopy than a conventional air blast. The conventional

air blast sprayer sends droplets in an air blast from a central fan upwards into the canopy, whereas the tower sprayer uses a horizontal air curtain.

8. Tunnel Sprayers: Tunnel sprayers are the best way to reduce drift. Very little spray gets out of the tunnel spraying system, allowing for a 90 percent reduction in drift. If AI nozzles are used with the tunnel sprayer, 99 percent of drift can be reduced.
9. Axial fan size and speed: Using an axial fan producing 30,000m<sup>3</sup>/hr and in conjunction with AI nozzles will result in a 75 percent reduction of drift.
10. PTO speed: Regulating the PTO speed of the tractor is an inexpensive way to reduce drift. Lowering the PTO speed reduces fan speed, preventing excessive amounts of air from blowing pesticides through the target and allowing good deposition to occur. On an airshear type sprayer, reducing PTO speed by 25% reduced drift by 75%. The reduced speed also increased droplet size, further reducing the effects of drift (see NY Fruit Quarterly, Vol. 12 #3, Autumn 2004).
11. Hydraulic Drive: Using a hydraulic motor to drive the sprayer fan will allow you to regulate wind velocity.
12. Cornell Doughnuts: These attachments restrict air intake to reduce air flow through the sprayer. For early season, the 1/2 air intake doughnut can be used to only allow enough air to penetrate just the target row. A 2/3rd air intake hole can be used for early/mid-season to allow more air. Finally, in full canopy, no doughnut is required.
13. Drift-reducing additives. A number of manufacturers supply drift reducing agents; most work via increasing droplet size. Beware, not all of them can withstand the higher pressures associated with fruit sprayers and need independent verification.
14. Calibrate and check that the sprayer is functioning correctly.

#### 4.3.3.2 Conclusion:

Drift is impossible to eliminate but can be minimized. Implementing just one of these methods will greatly reduce the effects of drift and improve your efficiency of spray application, saving you time, money, and future problems.

**German Drift Reduction Methods** – Adapted from: Registration of BBA – approved plant protection equipment for orchards in the list of loss reducing equipment.

Key: ID = Lechler Air Induction; AD = Lechler Drift Reducing; TD = Agrotop by GreenLeaf; DG = Drift Guard by TeeJet; AVI = Albuz Air Induction; Website: [www.bba.de](http://www.bba.de)

Drift Reduction Class	Sprayer	Nozzle Types	Regulations of Use
50%	All air assisted sprayers	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	First 5 rows without air towards field edge.
	Foliage Detector	All Types	
	Air assisted sprayers with axial fan.	ID Various Sizes, TD 80-02 Keramik, AVI 80-03	Spray pressure max 58-73 PSI. First 5 rows with reduced air (max 30,000m <sup>3</sup> /h)
	All air assisted sprayers	All Types	Hail nets above orchards.
75%	All air assisted sprayers	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	Hail nets above orchards.
	Sprayers with axial fan with max 30,000 m <sup>3</sup> /h, at least with first gear.	ID, TD, AVI, Various Sizes	Spray pressure max 58-73 PSI. First 5 rows with reduced air (max 20,000m <sup>3</sup> /h). AVI 80-015 max 44 PSI, ID 90-015 max 44 PSI
	Tower Sprayer	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	First 3 rows spraying without air towards field edge.
	Sprayers with cross flow fan	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	First 3 rows spraying without air towards field edge.
90%	Sprayers with cross flow fan.	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	First 5 rows spraying with reduced/sealing #4 towards field edge; sealing #8 inwards.
	Tower sprayers with fan	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various sizes	First 5 rows spraying without air towards field edge. Partly with reduced spray pressure.
	Lipco Tunnel sprayers		
99%	Lipco Tunnel sprayers	ID, TD, AVI, DG, AD Various Sizes	

## 4.4 Preparing the Air Blast Sprayer for Work

### 4.4.1 Checking the Sprayer

Sprayers must be regularly checked over to ensure that proper maintenance has been carried out and that no outstanding repairs need to be done. Faulty sprayers contribute to increased drift levels and waste money through inefficiency and overuse of chemicals.

Before attempting any work on a machine make sure that it is fully supported on stands and that all necessary protective clothing is on hand.

The cost of replacing a faulty pressure gauge which has been indicating at 15% below the actual pressure is recouped in around two hours' operation.

Maintenance measures such as fitting a new set of nozzles at the beginning of each season also save money. Even when there is overdosing by as little as 5%, the cost of a new set of nozzles would be recovered in less than a day's work.

#### Caution

- Take great care when adjusting a sprayer while the tractor engine is running.
- Always ensure that the fan is stationary before approaching the rear of the sprayer.
- Engage the handbrake when leaving tractor seat.

### 4.4.2 Fitting the Sprayer to the Tractor

The selected tractor must always be powerful enough to operate the sprayer efficiently under the working conditions that will be encountered. All its external services—hydraulic, electrical and pneumatic—must be clean and in working order. Tractors fitted with cabs must have efficient air filtration systems. All protective guards must be in place. Trailed sprayers are often close-coupled to the tractor, so it is essential that the drawbar and the PTO shaft are correctly adjusted for turning. PTO shafts must be disengaged when making very tight turns.

### 4.4.3 Checking the Operation of the Sprayer

Part fill the tank with clean water and move the sprayer to uncropped waste ground. Remove the nozzles. Although not using any chemical at this point, get into the habit of wearing a coverall, gloves and a face visor when working with the sprayer. Engage the PTO and gently turn the shaft, increasing speed slowly to operating revs. Test the on/off and pressure relief valves, and check the agitation system. Flush through the spray lines, then switch off the tractor. Refit the nozzles and check the liquid system again for leaks.

It is a valuable exercise to assess the spray deposits at various points in the canopy and on upper and lower leaf surfaces of the trees to be sprayed. This is particularly important if the foliage is dense or if the trees are grown in beds of three or more rows. Water-sensitive papers, food coloring or fluorescent tracers are available for this purpose. An increase in spray volume or adjustment of the nozzles and their locations may be necessary in order to achieve the correct deposits.

### 4.4.4 Pre-Season Maintenance

Follow the checklists before you begin spraying

#### Hoses

*check...*

- for splits and cracks
- connections to ensure they are water-tight
- for hose chafe, particularly in routing clips

#### Filters

*check...*

- for missing filter elements and seals
- for leakage
- for blocked or damaged filters

#### Tank

*check...*

- for fractures and any other damage
- the tank sits firmly in its mount
- the securing straps are correctly adjusted
- the agitation is working
- the tank is clean

#### Controls

*check...*

- the control circuitry (electrical, hydraulic or air) for correct operation
- valves for both internal and external leaks

#### Pump

*check...*

- lubrication levels
- for leaks
- the air pressure in the pulsation chamber (if fitted) is at the recommended level
- the pump rotates freely without friction or noise. Do so by rotating manually or starting at low speed (corrosion may cause seizing up)

#### Pressure Gauge

The pressure gauge is vital for indicating whether the nozzles are delivering the correct amount of chemical per unit time while spraying. If you have any doubts about the

pressure gauge, replace it or refer the problem to the manufacturer or supplier.

### Nozzles

*check...*

- all nozzles are the same
- all nozzles are in good condition, with no leaks around the body
- all nozzles are clean and free from obstruction (note: clean with a soft brush or airline – don't damage nozzles by using wires or pins)
- all nozzles deliver to within + or - 5% of the manufacturer's chart value

Using water only, set to 'spray' at the specified pressure and collect the output from each nozzle in turn for a period of 60 seconds. Record each output and replace those outside the 5% tolerance stated in the manufacturer's chart.

### Calibration

Where your sprayer has automatic controllers to monitor the speed of the sprayer and the flow, pressure and area sprayed:

*check...*

- they are in good condition and properly maintained
- they are frequently calibrated for accuracy, leaks, blockages, variations in pressure or any minor damage during spraying

### Routine Maintenance

The following checks should be carried out routinely:

- All hoses are tightly connected and free from sharp bends; cracked or damaged hoses must be replaced.
- All controls move freely and are fully adjustable.
- Pressure gauge reads zero.
- Pump can be turned over by hand.
- Fan turns freely and is not obstructed; bearings are sound and lubricated.
- Air pressure in pump accumulator (if fitted) is correctly adjusted.
- Drain plugs and clean filters are in position.
- Tires on trailed machines are sound and correctly inflated; wheel nuts are tight.

### 4.4.5 Sprayer Calibration

Accurate calibration of orchard spray equipment is important for efficient use of pesticides. The selection of the right chemical and timing of its application are equally important. Tree spraying requires a sprayer with adequate capacity to distribute the spray evenly throughout the trees. Individual sprayers can be designed to operate most effectively over a range of gallonages per acre. The best spray coverage and deposit are obtained within the

manufacturer's recommended operating range. Sprayer performance will be limited by pump output, maximum pressure, fan capacity, and travel speed.

### 4.4.6 Dilute Spraying

The amount of dilute spray required to adequately cover trees varies with the size, density of canopy, and stage of growth of the trees. Unless adjustments are made in the spray delivery, spray pattern, and fan output required by differences in tree size, difficulties such as inadequate pest control or excessive application of material will result. Approximate dilute gallonages required in different orchard situations are indicated in Table 4.4.1.

### 4.4.7 Concentrate Spraying

Table 4.4.1 shows how the amount of dilute spray required to cover an acre of orchard will vary according to tree size. This table also can be used to adjust the per-acre rate of pesticides for orchards of different tree sizes when concentrate sprays are applied. For instance, in an orchard with rows 30 ft apart and trees 20 ft wide x 15 ft tall, the minimum dilute spray per acre is shown to be 300 gallons. Thus, if you are applying a pesticide recommended at a rate of 2 lb/100 gal dilute basis, the appropriate per acre rate in such an orchard would be 6 lb, which could be applied in 75 gal of water at a 4X concentration or in 50 gal of water at a 6X concentration.

However, in a more compact orchard with 22 ft between rows and trees 14 ft wide x 10 ft tall, the minimum dilute spray per acre is shown to be 200 gal. Thus, the same pesticide would be applied at a rate of only 4 lb per acre in this orchard (2 lb/100 gal dilute basis x 200 gal dilute coverage). If concentrate spraying, the 4 lb of pesticide would be applied in 50 gal of water per acre at a 4X concentration or in 33 gal of water at a 6X concentration.

Concentrate spraying must be considered in terms of reducing the gallons of water per acre for the row-spacing and tree-size combination being sprayed. As the gallonage of water is reduced, errors become more critical. Concentrate sprays reduce or eliminate run-off, depending upon the degree of concentration. From a practical viewpoint, the acceptable concentrate level depends on several factors including the pest being controlled, density of foliage, weather conditions, and material being applied. Dilute sprays are generally more effective and are preferred for applying growth regulators, nutrient sprays, acaricides, and insecticides for control of pests such as scales and woolly aphid. In most other instances, concentrate sprays in the range of 6X to 8X usually provide satisfactory results.

Additional savings in cost of application above this level of concentration are minimal, and frequency of poor spray performance increases.

**Table 4.4.1. Gallonage of dilute spray per acre required to provide equivalent coverage for mature trees of different sizes and spacings.**

Distance Between Rows (feet)	Tree Width (feet)	Tree Height (feet)	Dilute spray Per acre <sup>1</sup> (gal/acre)
40	28	20	427
40	28	16	342
30	20	15	305
25	16	14	273
22	14	13	252
20	12	12	220
18	10	12	203
16	8	10	152
14	6	10	131
12	5	10	127
11	4	10	111
10	3	9	82

<sup>1</sup>Minimum dilute gallons per acre = tree width x tree height x linear feet of row per acre (43,560 divided by distance between rows) x approximately 0.7 gallon per 1,000 cu ft of tree volume.

#### 4.4.8 Travel Speed Calibration

Travel speed is a critical factor in maintaining accurate application rates and will influence spray deposition depending on location within the canopy. The slower a sprayer travels, the greater the uniformity in spray deposition. Although there is inconsistency in research results that try to determine the effect of travel speed on average spray deposition, all studies to date have been in agreement that the higher the travel speed, the greater the variability in spray deposit. Variation in spray deposit is an important factor where uniformity of spray coverage throughout the canopy is required. Conclusions from research were drawn using travel speeds of 1–4 mph.

Factors that will affect travel speed include:

- weight of sprayer to be pulled
- slope of terrain
- ground conditions traveled over (wheel slippage!)

The best way to measure travel speed is to pull a sprayer with tank half filled with water on the same type of terrain that the sprayer will be operated on.

Set up test course at least 100 feet long, measure the course with a tape measure. Do not pace the distance. The longer the course the smaller the margin of error. Run the course in both directions.

Use an accurate stop watch to check the time required to travel the course in each direction. Average the two runs and use the following formula to calculate the speed in MPH.

$$\text{Formula: } \text{MPH} = \frac{\text{ft traveled}}{\text{sec traveled}} \times \frac{60}{88}$$

Your figures:

Tractor gear \_\_\_\_\_ Engine revs. \_\_\_\_\_

$$\text{MPH} = \frac{\text{ft traveled}}{\text{sec traveled}} \times \frac{60}{88} = \underline{\quad}$$

A modern alternative to using the above method is to purchase a hand-held GPS receiver. A number of systems are available, costing \$80-150 and are available from electronics stores, hunting equipment suppliers and the internet. The small device is portable so can be used in all tractors to determine forward speed in specific tractor gears at known engine r.p.m. They may also be used to measure row length and determine block size.

#### 4.5 Rate of Output (GPM)

The gallons of spray desired per acre and the time required to spray an acre determine the rate of output for which the sprayer must be nozzled. Since volume of spray needed per acre varies with tree size, the most common row-spacing for the tree size to be sprayed should be used in calibrating the sprayer. The gallons of dilute spray required for various row-spacing and tree-size combinations are indicated in Table 4.4.1. Gallons of concentrate spray required is determined by dividing dilute gallonage by the concentration desired. The rate of output by the sprayer is calculated by dividing the gallons of concentrate spray by the time required to spray 1 acre, Table 4.5.1.

**Table 4.5.1. Approximate time required to spray 1 acre of orchard (two-sided sprayer operation, spraying both sides of trees).**

Distance between Rows (feet)	Linear feet of Row/ acre <sup>1</sup>	Travel speed (mph)				
		1	1.5	2	2.5	3
		<i>minutes per acre<sup>2</sup></i>				
40	1089	12.4	8.2	6.2	5.0	4.1
30	1452	16.5	11.0	8.2	6.6	5.5
25	1742	19.8	12.4	9.9	7.9	6.6
22	1980	22.5	15.0	11.2	9.0	7.5
20	2178	24.8	16.5	12.4	9.9	8.3
18	2420	27.5	18.3	13.8	11.0	9.2
16	2723	30.9	20.6	15.5	12.4	10.3
14	3112	35.4	23.6	17.7	14.1	11.8

<sup>1</sup>Linear feet of row per acre = 43,560 divided by distance between rows.

<sup>2</sup>Minutes per acre = linear feet of row per acre divided by speed in feet per minute. Speed in feet per minute = mph x 88.

##### 4.5.1 Example for Calibrating Rate of Output:

Rows 30 feet apart, trees 20 feet wide x 15 feet high. A 4X concentrate application is to be made at a speed of 2.5 miles per hour.

1. Table 4.4.1 indicates 300 gallons of dilute spray required per acre.
2. 300 (gal) divided by 4(X) = 75 gallons of 4X concentrate per acre required.
3. Table 4.5.1 indicates 6.6 minutes required to spray 1 acre of 30-foot rows at a speed of 2.5 mph.
4. Total sprayer output for 2-sided operation = 75 (gal/acre) divided by 6.6 (min/acre) = 11.36 gallons per minute.
5. Output required per side = 11.36 divided by 2 = 5.68 gallons per minute per side.
6. Rate of output = 5.68 gal/min/side.

## 4.6 Tree Row Volume

### 4.6.1 Dilute Applications

A standard dilute application uses 400 gallons account for the trees’ actual stature and density per acre (GPA) on standard size trees. Modern per unit of land area, is defined as canopy width, orchards contain smaller trees and therefore don’t times the tree height, times row length per acre. require so much spray volume. Tree row volume, Row length per acre is 43,560 square feet per acre a measurement of tree canopy size designed to divided by the distance between rows, in feet.

**Tree row volume = canopy width x tree height x row length per acre**

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Tree row} & & \text{tree canopy} & & \text{Tree} & & & & & & \\ \text{volume} & = & \text{diameter} & \times & \text{height} & \times & \frac{43,560 \text{ sq ft/acre}}{\text{distance between}} & & & & \\ \text{(cu ft/acre)} & & \text{(feet)} & & \text{(feet)} & & \text{rows (feet)} & & & & \end{matrix}$$

An example:

Trees 10 feet wide and 8 feet tall in rows 18 feet apart

$$\begin{aligned} &= 10 \text{ ft} \times 8 \text{ ft} \quad \times \quad \frac{43,560 \text{ sq ft/acre}}{18} \\ &= 80 \quad \times \quad 2420 \quad = \quad 193,000 \text{ cu. ft.} \end{aligned}$$

**Note:**

It takes 0.7 – 1.0 gallons to treat 1,000 cubic feet of tree canopy volume. Therefore, the minimum of 0.7 gallons/1,000 cu ft should be used in well pruned trees. The maximum of 1.0 gallon/1,000 cu ft should be used in an unpruned orchard with a thick canopy.

Example: A well pruned orchard using minimum spray volume

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Minimum} & & \text{your tree row} & & & & & & & & \\ \text{spray volume} & = & \text{volume} & \times & & & \frac{0.7 \text{ gal}}{1,000 \text{ cu ft}} & & & & \\ \text{(gal/acre)} & & \text{(cu ft/acre)} & & & & & & & & \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Minimum} & & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{spray volume} & = & 193,600 \text{ cu ft} & \times & \frac{0.7 \text{ gal}}{1,000 \text{ cu ft}} & = & 136 \text{ gal/acre} & & & & \\ \text{(gal/acre)} & & & & & & & & & & \end{matrix}$$

Example: A traditional, un-pruned, dense orchard using maximum spray volume

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Maximum} & & \text{your tree row} & & & & & & & & \\ \text{spray volume} & = & \text{volume} & \times & & & \frac{0.1 \text{ gal}}{1,000 \text{ cu ft}} & & & & \\ \text{(gal/acre)} & & \text{(cu ft/acre)} & & & & & & & & \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Maximum} & & & & & & & & & & \\ \text{spray volume} & = & 193,600 \text{ cu ft} & \times & \frac{0.1 \text{ gal}}{1,000 \text{ cu ft}} & = & 194 \text{ gal/acre} & & & & \\ \text{(gal/acre)} & & & & & & & & & & \end{matrix}$$

### 4.6.2 Concentrate Applications (Low Volume Application)

Concentrate spraying is reducing the gallons of water per acre to reduce or eliminate leaf run-off, often referred to as low volume application. The acceptable concentrate level depends on several factors, including the pest being controlled, density of foliage, weather conditions and the material being applied.

$$\text{Concentration} = \frac{\text{dilute volume of water per acre}}{\text{concentrate volume of water per acre}}$$

If we are using a pesticide that is recommended at 2 lbs/100 gallons on a dilute basis, then in the traditional orchard above we would use 4 lbs in 200 gallons of water (approx.).

If our sprayer is applying at 60 gallons/acre, then our concentration is:

$$\frac{200 \text{ gal water/acre}}{60 \text{ gal water/acre}} = 3 \quad \text{Therefore, a 3X application}$$

or

If our sprayer is applying at 50 gallons/acre, then our concentration is:

$$\frac{200 \text{ gal water/acre}}{50 \text{ gal water/acre}} = 4 \quad \text{Therefore, a 4X application}$$

**Remember** the debate that exists between all concerned:

1. It is the amount of water that changes, not the amount of pesticide per acre, or
2. The amount of pesticide reduces in proportion to the water, to maintain a constant concentration.
3. Is a standard dilute application uses 400gpa on “standard” trees but some suggest that these big old traditional trees are no longer and a modern “standard” tree should be regarded as 300 gpa.

## 4.7 Nozzles on the Net

<http://www.albuz.com.fr/>

This web page contains product information on agricultural and industrial nozzles. Albuz offer a variety of nozzles and whirl plates for application systems. There are also a

number of educational fact sheets about Albus nozzles located on the webpage: [www.hypropumps.com](http://www.hypropumps.com). Albus nozzles are distributed throughout America by this company. Also on the web page they offer technical training and information about the use of each nozzle.

<http://www.delavanagspray.com/Index.htm>

This web page contains product information on nozzles, nozzle accessories, sprayer accessories, high pressure guns/nozzles, pumps and high pressure washers. They offer educational material on calibration of nozzles and sprayers. They also have a nozzle type selection guide that is very useful to help select the right nozzle for your specific application. There are conversion factors for broadcast nozzle spacing and metric and imperial gallon conversion.

<http://www.hardi-us.com/html/home.html>

This web page contains product information on sprayers for all crops, nozzles, pumps and electronic controllers. They feature new products in the marketplace and educational materials, which provide knowledge on servicing your sprayer. Also, there is an online nozzle selection guide that is very useful in selecting the correct nozzle for your specific application.

<http://www.hypropumps.com/Agriculture/default.cfm>

This web page contains product information on Ag pumps, boom and sprayer components, nozzle bodies, pressure washer pumps, and spray tips. They also list educational guides that help you select the correct nozzle for your specific application. They are the distributor for Albus nozzles in US.

<http://www.lechlerusa.com/whois.asp>

This web page contains product information on nozzles and sprayer components. They offer many educational resources including a conversion program for sprayers and other aids to assist you in nozzle selection and sprayer use. They have catalogs you can download about their nozzles and other sprayer components such as nozzle bodies. They have a section that features all their new products; you can also shop online for spray nozzles and parts.

<http://www.teejet.com/ms/teejet/>

This web page contains product information on all different types of nozzles, spray guns, valves, manifolds, boom components, electronic controls and guidance systems. They provide educational support with the use of a spray calibration calculator. They also have a nozzle selection guide you can download to help you in making a decision on which nozzle is good for your application.

<http://www.turbodrop.com/index.html>

This web page contains product information on nozzles for turf, vegetables and other crops. The featured products are the turbodrop, spraymax and airmix nozzles. There is a nozzle guide to assist you in locating a nozzle for your application. There are educational materials such as droplet

size data, independent test data and news articles you can look through.

<http://www.wilger.net/home.html>

This web page contains product information on various sprayer parts and nozzles. Some of their featured products include tips, caps, strainers, nozzle bodies and flow indicators. Their web page also has a nozzle selection calculator called tip wizard, which helps you locate the correct nozzle for your application. Tipnology is another link on the web page that explains everything about each nozzle.

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pestapp/>

This webpage contains information on various types of sprayers (air-blast, boom and knapsack etc). There are links to most of the manufacturers of orchard, vineyard, turf and vegetable spraying equipment. The website contains useful information on sprayer calibration, nozzles, sprayer manufacturers and agricultural links for that particular crop. In each one of the specific crop spraying sections also there are extension publications and research publications covering research projects conducted on sprayers in the northeast.

## 4.8 Selecting Nozzles from the Nozzle Catalogue – Airblast sprayers

We need to select hollow cone discs with a core or whirl plate.

Nozzle output is based upon gallons/acre required above.

$$\text{Gallons/minute} = \frac{\text{GPA} \times \text{mph} \times \text{row width in feet}}{495}$$

### WHERE

GPM = total sprayer output in gallons/minute

mph = travel speed in miles per hour

row width = width between rows of trees in feet

495 = a mathematical constant to correct units of measurement

### Example

Take the example of the dilute application in a well pruned orchard. We need to apply at 136 gallons/acre. We have an airblast sprayer with 7 nozzles each side and a comfortable forward speed for our ground conditions is 3mph. Rows are 18 feet apart.

$$\text{Gallons/minute} = \frac{\text{GPA} \times \text{mph} \times \text{row width in feet}}{495}$$

$$\text{GPM} = \frac{136 \times 3 \times 18}{495} = 14.84$$

GPM = 7.42 per side

GPM per nozzle = 7.42 divided by 7 nozzles = 1.06

As an example, using the hollow cone nozzle table in the Spraying Systems catalogues:  
# 49A, pages40-41, #49, pages 38-41 or # 201, pages10-11

1. Read along the pressure row at the top of the table.

2. Read down the column for 80 psi until you read 1.07 gpm, look across to the left, you will see we need a D10 disc with a DC25 whirl plate or core.
3. Alternatively you may read down the column for 60 psi until you read 1.04 gpm, look across to the left and you will see we need a D8 disc with a DC45 whirl plate or core.

			GPM												
			10 PSI	20 PSI	30 PSI	40 PSI	60 PSI	80 PSI	100 PSI	150 PSI	200 PSI	300 PSI	20 PSI	40 PSI	80 PSI
D1	DC13	.031"	—	—	.059	.066	.078	.088	.097	.115	.128	.152	—	51°	62°
D1.5	DC13	.036"	—	.057	.067	.075	.088	.098	.110	.127	.142	.167	38°	55°	66°
D2	DC13	.041"	—	.064	.075	.08	.10	.11	.12	.14	.16	.18	49°	67°	72°
D3	DC13	.047"	—	.071	.08	.09	.11	.12	.13	.16	.18	.20	53°	70°	75°
D4	DC13	.063"	.070	.09	.11	.12	.14	.16	.17	.20	.23	.27	69°	79°	83°
D1	DC23	.031"	—	—	.064	.072	.080	.096	.107	.124	.139	.164	—	47°	58°
D1.5	DC23	.036"	—	.064	.076	.086	.103	.117	.130	.155	.175	.210	34°	51°	62°
D2	DC23	.041"	—	.078	.092	.10	.13	.14	.16	.19	.21	.25	51°	63°	70°
D3	DC23	.047"	.065	.087	.10	.12	.14	.16	.18	.21	.24	.28	58°	69°	75°
D4	DC23	.063"	.082	.113	.14	.15	.19	.21	.23	.28	.32	.38	68°	82°	87°
D5	DC23	.078"	.095	.13	.16	.18	.22	.25	.28	.34	.38	.46	79°	89°	94°
D6	DC23	.094"	.112	.15	.19	.21	.26	.29	.32	.39	.45	.54	84°	93°	98°
D1	DC25	.031"	—	—	.088	.101	.122	.138	.156	.185	.210	.255	—	27°	43°
D1.5	DC25	.036"	—	—	.118	.135	.162	.185	.205	.245	.280	.33	—	38°	49°
D2	DC25	.041"	—	.12	.14	.16	.19	.22	.25	.29	.34	.41	39°	51°	58°
D3	DC25	.047"	.10	.14	.17	.19	.23	.26	.29	.35	.40	.48	52°	61°	67°
D4	DC25	.063"	.15	.21	.25	.29	.35	.40	.45	.54	.62	.75	67°	74°	80°
D5	DC25	.078"	.18	.25	.30	.35	.42	.48	.54	.65	.75	.90	73°	79°	84°
D6	DC25	.094"	.23	.32	.39	.44	.54	.62	.70	.85	.97	1.19	79°	85°	89°
D7	DC25	.109"	.26	.37	.45	.52	.63	.73	.81	.98	1.18	1.37	85°	91°	93°
D8	DC25	.125"	.31	.43	.53	.61	.75	.89	.97	1.19	1.36	1.68	91°	96°	97°
D10	DC25	.156"	.38	.54	.65	.76	.93	1.07	1.21	1.48	1.71	2.1	97°	102°	103°
D12	DC25	.188"	.46	.61	.80	.93	1.15	1.32	1.47	1.81	2.09	2.55	103°	109°	112°
D14	DC25	.219"	.51	.72	.88	1.03	1.26	1.47	1.65	2.02	2.34	2.89	108°	113°	114°
D1	DC45	.031"	—	—	—	.125	.148	.170	.190	.225	.257	.310	—	22°	34°
D1.5	DC45	.036"	—	—	.14	.16	.20	.23	.25	.31	.35	.43	—	33°	44°
D2	DC45	.041"	—	.14	.18	.20	.25	.28	.32	.38	.44	.53	32°	46°	55°
D3	DC45	.047"	—	.17	.20	.23	.28	.33	.36	.44	.51	.62	40°	53°	60°
D4	DC45	.063"	.18	.25	.31	.36	.43	.50	.56	.68	.78	.95	62°	69°	72°
D5	DC45	.078"	.23	.32	.39	.45	.55	.64	.71	.86	.99	1.22	67°	73°	76°
D6	DC45	.094"	.29	.41	.50	.58	.72	.83	.93	1.15	1.33	1.64	73°	79°	81°
D7	DC45	.109"	.33	.48	.59	.68	.84	.97	1.11	1.35	1.57	1.94	81°	86°	87°
D8	DC45	.125"	.41	.59	.72	.84	1.04	1.21	1.35	1.68	1.94	2.40	86°	90°	90°
D10	DC45	.156"	.54	.77	.94	1.10	1.35	1.57	1.77	2.18	2.50	3.10	90°	93°	93°
D12	DC45	.188"	.67	.95	1.17	1.36	1.68	1.95	2.20	2.69	3.11	3.80	97°	100°	102°
D14	DC45	.218"	.75	1.07	1.32	1.53	1.89	2.19	2.45	3.00	3.49	4.30	101°	104°	105°
D16	DC45	.250"	.86	1.25	1.54	1.79	2.20	2.57	2.89	3.54	4.11	5.20	108°	111°	112°
D1	DC46	.031"	—	—	—	.145	.178	.205	.23	.28	.32	.39	—	13°	15°
D1.5	DC46	.036"	—	—	—	.213	.260	.300	.33	.41	.46	.56	—	15°	17°
D2	DC46	.041"	—	—	.24	.27	.33	.37	.42	.50	.57	.68	—	18°	21°
D3	DC46	.047"	—	.23	.28	.32	.39	.45	.51	.61	.70	.86	14°	20°	24°
D4	DC46	.063"	.28	.39	.48	.56	.68	.78	.88	1.07	1.23	1.52	23°	29°	33°
D5	DC46	.078"	.38	.54	.66	.77	.94	1.10	1.25	1.50	1.73	2.13	33°	39°	42°
D6	DC46	.094"	.55	.78	.95	1.10	1.35	1.58	1.73	2.16	2.50	3.06	42°	48°	50°
D7	DC46	.109"	—	.98	1.22	1.39	1.72	1.97	2.22	2.73	3.15	3.85	48°	53°	56°
D8	DC46	.125"	—	—	1.59	1.84	2.25	2.62	2.93	3.60	4.17	5.05	—	60°	62°
D10	DC46	.156"	—	—	2.15	2.48	3.05	3.53	3.96	4.83	5.59	6.80	—	66°	68°

Nozzle	PSI	GPM																	
		30 PSI	40 PSI	50 PSI	60 PSI	70 PSI	80 PSI	90 PSI	100 PSI	120 PSI	140 PSI	160 PSI	180 PSI	200 PSI	220 PSI	240 PSI	260 PSI	280 PSI	300 PSI
TXVK-1	100	0.015	0.017	0.018	0.020	0.021	0.022	0.023	0.024	0.026	0.028	0.030	0.031	0.032	0.034	0.035	0.036	0.037	0.038
TXVK-2	100	0.029	0.033	0.037	0.040	0.043	0.045	0.047	0.050	0.054	0.058	0.061	0.064	0.067	0.070	0.073	0.075	0.078	0.080
TXVK-3	100	0.044	0.050	0.055	0.060	0.064	0.068	0.071	0.075	0.081	0.086	0.092	0.096	0.101	0.105	0.109	0.113	0.117	0.120
TXVK-4	50	0.058	0.067	0.074	0.080	0.086	0.091	0.096	0.101	0.110	0.118	0.125	0.132	0.139	0.145	0.151	0.157	0.162	0.167
TXVK-6	50	0.088	0.100	0.111	0.120	0.129	0.137	0.145	0.152	0.165	0.177	0.188	0.199	0.208	0.218	0.226	0.235	0.243	0.251
TXVK-8	50	0.116	0.133	0.148	0.162	0.174	0.186	0.196	0.207	0.225	0.243	0.259	0.274	0.288	0.301	0.314	0.326	0.338	0.349
TXVK-10	50	0.145	0.167	0.185	0.202	0.218	0.232	0.246	0.258	0.282	0.303	0.323	0.342	0.360	0.376	0.392	0.408	0.422	0.437
TXVK-12	50	0.174	0.200	0.223	0.243	0.261	0.279	0.295	0.310	0.338	0.364	0.388	0.410	0.432	0.452	0.471	0.489	0.507	0.524
TXVK-18	50	0.260	0.300	0.335	0.367	0.396	0.423	0.449	0.473	0.517	0.558	0.597	0.633	0.667	0.699	0.730	0.759	0.788	0.815
TXVK-26	50	0.376	0.433	0.484	0.530	0.572	0.611	0.648	0.683	0.747	0.807	0.862	0.914	0.963	1.01	1.05	1.10	1.14	1.18
TX†800050VK	100	0.044	0.050	0.055	0.060	0.064	0.068	0.071	0.075	0.081	0.086	0.092	0.096	0.101	0.105	0.109	0.113	0.117	0.120
TX†800067VK	50	0.058	0.067	0.074	0.080	0.086	0.091	0.096	0.101	0.110	0.118	0.125	0.132	0.139	0.145	0.151	0.157	0.162	0.167
TX†8001VK	50	0.088	0.100	0.111	0.120	0.129	0.137	0.145	0.152	0.165	0.177	0.188	0.199	0.208	0.218	0.226	0.235	0.243	0.251
TX†80015VK	50	0.131	0.150	0.167	0.182	0.196	0.209	0.221	0.232	0.254	0.273	0.291	0.308	0.324	0.339	0.353	0.367	0.380	0.393
TX†8002VK	50	0.174	0.200	0.223	0.243	0.261	0.279	0.295	0.310	0.338	0.364	0.388	0.410	0.432	0.452	0.471	0.489	0.507	0.524
TX†8003VK	50	0.260	0.300	0.335	0.367	0.396	0.423	0.449	0.473	0.517	0.558	0.597	0.633	0.667	0.699	0.730	0.759	0.788	0.815
TX†8004VK	50	0.347	0.400	0.447	0.489	0.528	0.564	0.598	0.630	0.690	0.745	0.796	0.843	0.889	0.932	0.973	1.01	1.05	1.09

†Specify "A" or "B." See pages 37 and 38 for more information on ConeJet spray tips.  
 Note: Always double check your application rates. See pages 149-163 for useful formulas and information.

**Please note:** Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the author or Cornell University is implied.

A better alternative to consider would be to use a one-piece hollow cone nozzle tip. These one-piece tips are easier to fit into the cap and are much easier to remove for cleaning, changing tips etc.

*Example*

To continue with the worked example from above for a nozzle tip with a flow rate of 1.07 gpm. As an example, using the Conejet hollow cone nozzle table in the Spraying Systems TeeJet catalogues: # 49A, page 39, or # 202, page 15

1. Read along the pressure row at the top of the table.
2. Read down the column for 240 psi until you read 1.05 gpm, look across to the left, you will see we need a blue TXVK-26 one-piece nozzle.

### 4.9 Calibrating Airblast Sprayers

A simple vertical patternator can be constructed in the farm workshop using readily available materials; a build list and photographs can be found at: <<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/faculty/landers/pdf/Patternator.pdf>>

Videos showing calibration and nozzle selection may be found on the internet at: <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>. Type in: "Calibration of airblast sprayers for orchards part 1 selecting and changing nozzles" or "Calibration of airblast sprayers for orchards part 2 measuring liquid flow"

#### 4.9.1 Air Blast Sprayer Calibration (Use Clean Water)

1. Pressure check  
Place the pressure gauge on the nozzle fitting farthest away from the pump and turn the sprayer on. If

pressure is lower at the nozzle than specified, increase pressure at the regulator. \_\_\_\_\_

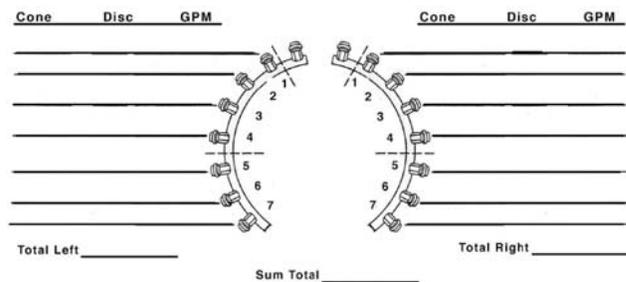
Pressure at nozzle \_\_\_\_\_psi

Pressure at sprayer gauge \_\_\_\_\_psi

2. Nozzle output
  - a. Use a flow meter (obtainable from Gemplers, Spraying Systems, etc.) attached to individual nozzles OR
  - b. Connect hoses to each of the nozzles and measure the flow from each nozzle into a calibrated jug for one minute.

Remember 128 fl. oz. in one gallon. Example: If the output of one nozzle has been measured at 34.5 fl. oz. in one minute, then output per minute is divided by 128 = 0.27 GPM.

Replace all nozzle tips that are more than 10% inaccurate.



Formula: 
$$\frac{\text{Total GPM} \times 495}{\text{mph} \times \text{row spacing (ft)}} = \text{GPA}$$

Your figures: 
$$\frac{\text{mph} \times 495}{\text{ft}} = \text{GPA}$$

GPM = gallons per minute = gal/min

GPA = gallons per acre = gal/acre

### 4.9.2 Calibrating a Kinkelder Sprayer

$$\frac{\text{Rate of spray (gals/acre)} \times \text{Forward speed (mph)} \times \text{Row spacing (ft)} \times 60}{500} = \text{gals/hr delivery or index setting}$$

Your figures:  $\frac{\text{gallons/acre} \times \text{mph} \times \text{ft} \times 60}{500} = \text{gals/hr delivery or index setting}$

This figure should be set on both scales.

Both taps should be set on the distribution conduit in such a way that the index is set on the sign 162 on the index plate of the distribution conduit. The emission indication on the index plate has been fixed at a working pressure of 21 lbs (1.5 bar).

#### Check the output of the sprayer:

1. Divide the gallons/hour figure obtained above by 60 to give output/minute e.g., 162 gpm divided by 60 = 2.7 gallons/minute total of left and right side then divide 2.7 gallons/minute by 2 = 1.35 gallons/minute/side
2. Remove the plastic pipes from the nozzles on the left or right side, tie together and place in a measuring jug
3. Run the sprayer for one minute at correct engine speed, collecting the output in a measuring jug.

Remember 128 fl. ozs in one gallon. Example: If the output of one side has been measured at 173fl. ozs, then output is divided by 128 = 1.35 gallons per minute.

4. Then check the output of the opposite side.

### 4.9.3 Calibrating an Agtec Sprayer (Use Clean Water)

1. Calculate the gallons/minute/side:

$$\frac{\text{Speed} \times \text{gallons/acre} \times \text{Row width}}{1000} = \text{gallons/minute/side}$$

Your figures:  $\frac{\text{mph} \times \text{gallons/acre} \times \text{ft}}{1000} = \text{gals/min/side}$

2. Check AgTec tables for correct meter setting, select the gal/min as calculated above, and then find meter setting, e.g., meter #12 @30 psi gives 1.34 gallons/min.

3. Remove the hoses from the nozzles on the left or right side, tie together and place in a measuring jug
4. Run the sprayer for one minute at correct engine speed, collecting the output in a measuring jug

Remember 128 fl. ozs in one gallon. Example: If the output of one side has been measured at 173fl. ozs, then output is divided by 128 = 1.35 gallons per minute.

5. Then check the output of the opposite side.

## 4.10 Selecting Nozzles from the Nozzle Catalogue –Boom Sprayers

### Step 1. Calculate the required nozzle output.

$$\text{Formula: GPM} = \frac{\text{GPA} \times \text{mph} \times \text{nozzle spacing}}{5940 \text{ (constant)}}$$

Example:  $\text{GPM} = \frac{20 \times 4 \times 20}{5940} = \frac{1600}{5940} = 027 \text{ GPM}$

Consider forward speed e.g. 4 mph, if too high: boom bounce and boom yaw

Consider pressure, too high: may lead to drift, too low: may lead to droplet bounce

*Example 1* Using a Spraying Systems catalogue #49A, page 10

Look at the columns headed GPA at 20” nozzle spacing. Select the 4 mph column; look down the column until you see a figure close to 20 gpa, then look to the left to find the operating pressure

For example:

- a) select nozzle XR8003VS or XR11003VS at 30psi to give 19.3 gpa
- b) select nozzle XR8004VS or XR11004VS at 20psi to give 21 gpa

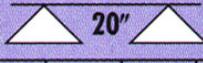
Select the appropriate nozzle.

*Example 2:* Using a Spraying Systems catalogue #49A, page 10

Look at column headed: Capacity of 1 nozzle in GPM

#### Read down column

- c) select nozzle XR8003VS or XR11003VS at 30psi to give 0.26GPM or
- d) select nozzle XR8004VS or XR11004VS at 20psi to give 0.28GPM

 Capacity 1 Nozzle in GPM	 PSI	Capacity 1 Nozzle in oz./min.	GPA 								
			4 mph	5 mph	6 mph	7 mph	8 mph	9 mph	10 mph	12 mph	
<b>XR8001VS XR11001VS</b> (100)	15	0.06	8	4.5	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5
	20	0.07	9	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.7
	30	0.09	12	6.7	5.3	4.5	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.2
	40	0.10	13	7.4	5.9	5.0	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.5
	50	0.11	14	8.2	6.5	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.3	2.7
	60	0.12	15	8.9	7.1	5.9	5.1	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.0
<b>XR80015VS XR110015VS</b> (100)	15	0.09	12	6.7	5.3	4.5	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.2
	20	0.11	14	8.2	6.5	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.3	2.7
	30	0.13	17	9.7	7.7	6.4	5.5	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.2
	40	0.15	19	11.1	8.9	7.4	6.4	5.6	5.0	4.5	3.7
	50	0.17	22	12.6	10.1	8.4	7.2	6.3	5.6	5.0	4.2
	60	0.18	23	13.4	10.7	8.9	7.6	6.7	5.9	5.3	4.5
<b>XR8002VS XR11002VS</b> (50)	15	0.12	15	8.9	7.1	5.9	5.1	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.0
	20	0.14	18	10.4	8.3	6.9	5.9	5.2	4.6	4.2	3.5
	30	0.17	22	12.6	10.1	8.4	7.2	6.3	5.6	5.0	4.2
	40	0.20	26	14.9	11.9	9.9	8.5	7.4	6.6	5.9	5.0
	50	0.22	28	16.3	13.1	10.9	9.3	8.2	7.3	6.5	5.4
	60	0.24	31	17.8	14.3	11.9	10.2	8.9	7.9	7.1	5.9
<b>XR8003VS XR11003VS</b> (50)	15	0.18	23	13.4	10.7	8.9	7.6	6.7	5.9	5.3	4.5
	20	0.21	27	15.6	12.5	10.4	8.9	7.8	6.9	6.2	5.2
	30	0.26	33	19.3	15.4	12.9	11.0	9.7	8.6	7.7	6.4
	40	0.30	38	22	17.8	14.9	12.7	11.1	9.9	8.9	7.4
	50	0.34	44	25	20	16.8	14.4	12.6	11.2	10.1	8.4
	60	0.37	47	27	22	18.3	15.7	13.7	12.2	11.0	9.2
<b>XR8004VS XR11004VS</b> (50)	15	0.24	31	18	14.3	11.9	10.2	8.9	7.9	7.1	5.9
	20	0.28	36	21	16.6	13.9	11.9	10.4	9.2	8.3	6.9
	30	0.35	45	26	21	17.3	14.9	13.0	11.6	10.4	8.7
	40	0.40	51	30	24	19.8	17.0	14.9	13.2	11.9	9.9
	50	0.45	58	33	27	22	19.1	16.7	14.9	13.4	11.1
	60	0.49	63	36	29	24	21	18.2	16.2	14.6	12.1
<b>XR8005VS XR11005VS</b> (50)	15	0.31	40	23	18.4	15.3	13.2	11.5	10.2	9.2	7.7
	20	0.35	45	26	21	17.3	14.9	13.0	11.6	10.4	8.7
	30	0.43	55	32	26	21	18.2	16.0	14.2	12.8	10.6
	40	0.50	64	37	30	25	21	18.6	16.5	14.9	12.4
	50	0.56	72	42	33	28	24	21	18.5	16.6	13.9
	60	0.61	78	45	36	30	26	23	20	18.1	15.1

**BUT WHAT ABOUT SPRAY QUALITY?**

**Selecting a Nozzle to Give Desired Spray Quality**

Example using a Spraying Systems catalogue #49A, page 161

In the previous exercise we considered selecting:

- e) nozzle XR8003VS or XR11003VS at 30psi to give 0.26GPM or
- f) nozzle XR8004VS or XR11004VS at 20psi to give 0.28GPM

Using the table below, you can see:

- a) an XR8003VS at 30psi gives a medium spray quality
  - b) an XR8004VS at 20psi gives a coarse spray quality
- but note:
- c) an XR11003VS at 30psi gives a fine spray quality
  - d) an XR11004VS at 20psi gives a medium spray quality

XR TeeJet® (XR) and XRC TeeJet® (XRC)

	PSI						
	15	20	25	30	40	50	60
XR8001	M	F	F	F	F	F	F
XR80015	M	M	M	F	F	F	F
XR8002	M	M	M	M	F	F	F
XR8003	M	M	M	M	M	M	F
XR8004	C	C	M	M	M	M	M
XR8005	C	C	C	C	M	M	M
XR8006	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
XR8008	VC	VC	VC	C	C	C	C
XR11001	F	F	F	F	F	VF	VF
XR110015	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
XR11002	M	F	F	F	F	F	F
XR11003	M	M	M	F	F	F	F
XR11004	M	M	M	M	M	F	F
XR11005	M	M	M	M	M	M	F
XR11006	C	C	M	M	M	M	M
XR11008	C	C	C	C	C	M	M

**Spray classification and target**

1. **Fine sprays** can produce enhanced retention on the target and may be used for:  
 Foliar acting weed control and cotyledon-stage weed control  
 Careful attention must be paid to weather conditions: do not use a fine spray for pesticides labeled toxic, or when drift may cause problems near susceptible or sensitive areas.
2. **Medium sprays** when the leaf is the target.
3. **Coarse sprays** have a low risk of drift but should be used only where recommended as a lot of spray is wasted as the larger droplets bounce off the leaves.

Recommended application volume (from manufacturer’s label) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 GPA

Measured sprayer speed \_\_\_\_\_ 4 mph

Nozzle spacing \_\_\_\_\_ 20 inches

**4.11 Boom Sprayer Calibration (Use Clean Water)**

**Step 1. Check your tractor/sprayer speed**

Formula:  $MPH = \frac{\text{ft traveled}}{\text{sec traveled}} \times \frac{60}{88}$

Your tractor sprayer speed:

MPH  $\frac{\text{ft traveled}}{\text{sec traveled}} \times \frac{60}{88} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2. Record the inputs**

	<b>Your figures</b>	<i>Example</i>
Nozzle type on your sprayer (all nozzles must be identical)	_____	110 04 flat fan

**Step 3. Calculate the required nozzle output.**

Formula:  $GPM = \frac{GPA \times \text{mph} \times \text{Nozzle spacing}}{5940 \text{ (constant)}}$

Example:  
 $GPM = \frac{20 \times 4 \times 20}{5940} = \frac{1600}{5940} = 0.27GPM$

Your figures:  
 $GPM = \frac{\text{ } \times \text{ } \times \text{ }}{5940} = \frac{\text{ }}{5940} = \text{ } GPM$

**Step 4. Operate the sprayer**

Set the correct pressure at the gauge using the pressure regulating valve.

Collect and measure the output of each nozzle for one minute.

The output of each nozzle should be the approximately the same as calculated in Step 3 above. Remember 128 fl. oz. in one gallon. If output has been calculated at 0.27 GPM then output is 128 multiplied by 0.27 = 34.5 fl. oz. in one minute.

Replace all nozzle tips that are more than 10% inaccurate.



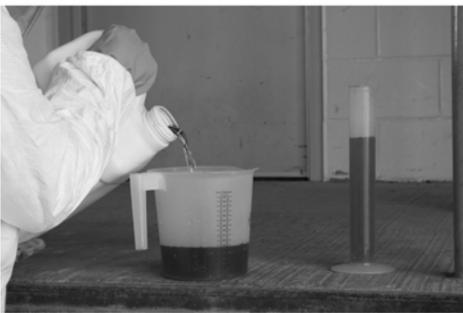


## ALWAYS

- Make sure there is no direct connection between the water source and sprayer tank. Direct connections can contaminate the supply by allowing chemicals to siphon back.
- Use a strainer when using water from a stream or pond.



- When opening a package:
  - △ Avoid using an “implement”; if used, decontaminate after use.
  - △ Avoid splashing and “glugging” of liquid formulations.
- Always add concentrated pesticides to a partially filled tank.
- If adding more than one product, do so separately and in the recommended order. NEVER mix them together in their concentrated forms
- If available, add product through a low-level induction bowl or through a suction probe.
  - △ If not available, add pesticides through the tank filter basket, except for soluble packs and some water dispersible granule formulations. Some wettable powders may need to be premixed.



- Accurately measure the calculated amount of product.
  - △ Weigh solid formulations, and measure out liquid formulations, unless they come in pre-weighed packages appropriate for the spraying area.
  - △ Handle water soluble packages according to directions. Keep packs dry and do not force open the packs.



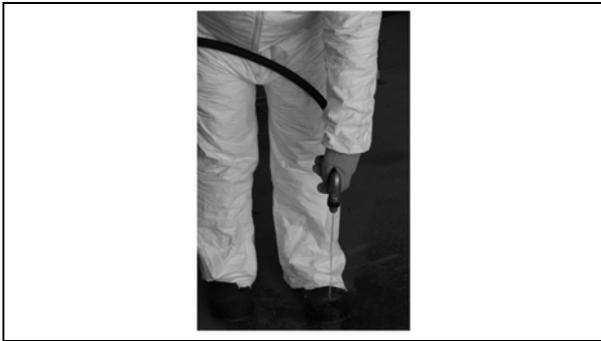
- If foaming is likely:
  - △ Fill the tank three-quarters full of water and use gentle agitation.
  - △ Add the pesticide.
  - △ Add the surfactant.
  - △ Continue to use gentle agitation until filling is finished.
  - △ Do not add water from a height.



- Triple rinse pesticide containers with clean water and put washings into the tank.
- Rinse off any pesticides spilled on the sprayer or container, and avoid contaminating the surroundings or yourself.



- Fill tank to the correct level and agitate while filling. Continue agitating while driving to the field and whilst spraying unless instructions advise otherwise. If spraying is delayed, agitate thoroughly just before use.



- Rinse impermeable protective clothing (rubber boots, gloves, etc.) with clean water after use.



- Remove other protective clothing and store before getting into tractor cab.



- Seal unused chemicals and store in a safe location.

## 4.13 Equipment for Weed Control in Orchards

Herbicides, although relatively inexpensive, require good application techniques if improved deposition and drift reduction is to occur. Some of the commonly used herbicides can damage young trees and so great care must be taken. Drift has been a major concern for some years, off-target application wastes money, reduces deposition on the target plant, damages young trees, pollutes water courses and may cause nausea to other people.

### 4.13.1 Boom Applicators

A boom may be fitted either to the front of the tractor or be mid-mounted for spraying one side of the adjacent row. 20–30 gallons per acre are typical spray volumes.

The use of hoods and break-back devices are important. A hood will protect the branches from drift created by the small droplets being emitted from the conventional flat fan nozzle. A break-back device will protect the sprayer boom and nozzle from damage caused by inadvertently striking a trunk or trellis post etc. Break-back devices normally comprise a spring-loaded arm.

Correct nozzle selection is one of the most important yet inexpensive aspects of pesticide application. A nozzle's droplet size spectrum determines deposition and drift and is referred to as spray quality. Modern nozzle catalogues provide information on spray quality for each nozzle, when applying herbicides, we need to select a MEDIUM quality spray. Conventional flat fan nozzles produce droplets in the range of 10–450 microns. There are 25,000 microns in one inch. Drift is a major problem with droplets less than 150 microns.

Increasing the Volume Median Diameter (VMD) will certainly reduce drift, but too large a droplet (>300 microns) will bounce off the leaves to the ground, thus causing pollution, wasting money and resulting in less product on the target.

### 4.13.2 Conventional Flat Fan Nozzles

Nozzles with 800 angle produce coarser droplets than 1100 at the same flow rate, but 800 nozzles require the boom to be set at 17–19 inches, whereas 1100 nozzles can be set lower at 15–18 inches above the target. (The lower the boom, the less chance of drift). Spray quality is fine – medium at 15–60 psi.

### 4.13.3 Pre-orifice Flat Fan Nozzles

The internal design of this nozzle reduces the internal operating pressure compared with a conventional flat fan, resulting in coarser droplets (high pressure creates fine droplets, low pressure creates coarser droplets). Available

as 800 or 1100 nozzles. Spray quality is medium–coarse at 30–60 psi. Drift-guard is a well-known trade name.

### 4.13.4 Turbo-Teejet

A turbulence chamber produces a wide-angle flat spray pattern of 1500. Spray quality is medium–coarse at 15–90 psi. Nozzles can be set at 15–18 inches above the target.

### 4.13.5 Air Induction Nozzles

Air induction, air inclusion or venturi nozzles are flat fan nozzles where an internal venturi creates negative pressure inside the nozzle body. Air is drawn into the nozzle through two holes in the nozzle side, mixing with the spray liquid. The emitted spray contains large droplets filled with air bubbles (similar to a candy malt ball) and virtually no fine, drift-prone droplets. The droplets explode on impact with leaves and produce similar coverage to conventional, finer sprays.

Air induction nozzles reduce drift even when operating at higher pressures of 80–90 psi. They are available at 110° fan angles, so boom height may need to be adjusted to 15–18 inches. The use of adjuvants will certainly help create bubbles. Air induction nozzles work very well for herbicide application; trials with paraquat in the Finger Lakes have shown good deposition with no drift.

#### 4.13.5.1 Boom Manufacturers/Distributors Include:

Phil Brown Welding Corp., The Green Hoe Co. Inc., OESCO, Inc.

#### 4.13.5.2 Nozzle Manufacturers Include:

Albuz, Greenleaf, Hardi, Lechler, Tee Jet

### 4.16.6 Sensor-Controlled Applicators

Sensor-controlled pesticide applicators use optical sensors to determine where weeds are located. These sensors, coupled with a computer controller, regulate the spray nozzles and apply herbicides only when needed, thus considerably reducing herbicide use. A computer-controlled sensor detects chlorophyll in plants and then sends a signal to the appropriate spray nozzle, applying the herbicide directly to the weed. The operator calibrates the system to bare soil or pavement, allowing the computer to determine when there is a weed present. Sensor-controlled applicators are often mounted on ATVs, John Deere Gators, etc.; they can also be attached to tractors or trucks. Typically, this type of applicator can be used at speeds up to 10 mph. A complete sensor-controlled system consists of a chemical tank, pump, battery power, computer controller, optical sensors and spray nozzles.

#### 4.13.6.1 Benefits of Sensor-Controlled Applicators:

- Reduced amount of herbicide applied
- Reduced potential for groundwater contamination
- Ability to apply herbicides in dark or light conditions
- If equipped with wind-deflecting shields, can reduce herbicide drift

#### 4.13.6.2 Manufacturers/Distributors Include:

Patchen/Ntech, OESCO, Zahm and Matson

#### 4.13.7 Controlled Droplet Applicators (CDA)

Traditional flat fan nozzles produce a range of droplets, 10–450 microns; some drift, some roll off the leaves, others will adhere to the target leaves. A CDA herbicide applicator comprises an electrically-driven spinning disc under a large plastic hood or dome. The circumference of the disc has small teeth, which break up the liquid herbicide into droplets, of which 95% are the same size. The speed of the spinning disc dictates droplet size. As there are no large or small droplets in the CDA spectrum, all the droplets stick to the plant and so reduced rates can be applied, e.g. 1–8 GPA.

Various widths of hood or dome can be selected, and are fitted with break-back devices. Where the ground is rough, e.g., stones, then a bristle skirt maybe used. In young trees an optional plastic cover can be fitted over the bristle skirt.

CDA sprayers reduce the amount of water required, thus considerably improving spraying logistics. They are lightweight, relatively inexpensive and very maneuverable.

#### 4.13.7.1 Distributors Include:

Bdi Machinery Sales, North-Eastern Equipment, Lakeview Harvesters, Rammelt & Co.

#### 4.13.8 Flame Applicators

Flame applicators simply use a flame to destroy weeds. Most flame applicators burn liquid propane gas to create a flame having a temperature near 2000°F. The flame is applied directly to the weeds using a hand-held wand or with boom-mounted torches attached to a tractor or ATV. The flame is applied to the weed for only a short period of time, usually about 1/10 of a second. The length of time the flame is applied depends on the age, size and tenderness of the weed. It is recommended that the flame be applied to weeds when they are 1 to 3 inches tall, and typically in the spring and early summer. When the weeds are exposed to the flame, the water inside the plant cells boil, causing them to burst. (The weeds are not burned up.) By destroying the plant cells, the plant is unable to transport water and continue photosynthesis, causing the weed to wilt and die. Flame applicators should only be used when there is little or no potential for setting fire to dry plant material. Beware of setting fire to trellis posts and poison ivy.

#### 4.13.8.1 Benefits of Flame Applicators

- Non-chemical weed control method
- No harmful drift
- No groundwater contamination
- No chemical exposure to workers

#### 4.13.8.2 Manufacturer:

Red Dragon

#### 4.13.9 Where to Look/Buy

Albuz nozzles:  
651-766-6300  
<http://www.hypropumps.com/>

BDi Machinery Sales, Macungie, PA  
1-800-808-0454  
[Bdi@fast.net](mailto:Bdi@fast.net)

Green Hoe Company Inc.  
716-792-9433  
<http://www.greenhoecompany.com/>

GreenLeaf nozzles  
<http://www.turbodrop.com/>  
1-800-881-4832

Hardi nozzles  
563-386-1730  
[www.hardi-us.com](http://www.hardi-us.com)

Lakeview Harvesters, Ontario, Canada  
1-866-677-4717  
[www.gregoireharvesters.com](http://www.gregoireharvesters.com)

Lechler nozzles  
630-377-6611  
<http://www.lechler.com/seiten/en/lechler.html>

Patchen Weedseeker:  
1-888-728-2436  
<http://www.ntechindustries.com/>

Phil Brown Welding Corp.  
616-784-3046

NorthEastern Equipment  
1-631-765-3865

OESCO Inc., Conway, MA  
1-800-634-5557  
[www.oescoinc.com](http://www.oescoinc.com)

Rammelt & Sons  
1-800-388-3802

Red Dragon Flame  
1-800-255-2469  
<http://www.flameeng.com/>

Rittenhouse, Ontario, Canada  
1-800-461-1041  
[www.rittenhouse.ca](http://www.rittenhouse.ca)

Tee Jet nozzles  
<http://www.teejet.com/ms/teejet/>  
Phone # 717-432-7222

**Please note:** Where trade names, manufacturers or distributors names appear, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the author or Cornell University is implied.

#### 4.14 Decontaminating and Storing Crop Sprayers

Sprayers must be thoroughly cleaned inside and out after use. Ideally, a sprayer should be cleaned at the end of each day and especially before switching to a different pesticide. Pesticide residues left on the outside of the sprayer can cause operator contamination. Residues on the inside of the tank or left over pesticides trapped inside the sprayer plumbing system can contaminate the operator and possibly lead to crop damage. Growers should be concerned about this, especially if they are using one sprayer to apply different chemicals to different crops. In some cases, only a small amount of a pesticide remaining in the sprayer can cause significant crop damage or lead to unacceptable residues on a crop. Crop contamination can even occur several months after a sprayer has not been properly cleaned. Where an airblast sprayer is used to spray different fruit crops, residue left in the tank can cross contaminate another fruit crop, resulting in rejection by the processor.

Sprayers can also retain tremendous amounts of pesticide solution. Depending on the size and design of the sprayer, there can be nearly 6 gallons of solution left in an airblast sprayer's plumbing. As illustrated in the following table, research conducted on boom sprayers has shown that, depending on the spray tank size, the total chemical solution retained in the sprayer ranged from just under 3 gallons to over 12 gallons. The parts that retained the most chemical solution are the chemical induction bowl, the booms, the tank and the pump and its related piping.

Tests have shown that triple rinsing the spray tank is better than using just one single rinse. For example, using 100 gallons of clean water in one single rinse to clean a 100-gallon sprayer tank reduced the concentration of the original spray solution from 100% to 5% both in the tank and at the nozzle. If triple rinsing was performed using 33 gallons of clean water per rinse, a concentration of 0.2% to 0.5% was gained. The aim is for maximum dilution with minimal use of water. The following table illustrates how triple rinsing reduces the pesticide concentration at the nozzle and the tank drain.

Rinse Number	Sample Location	Percent Concentration
1	Nozzle	5.5
	Tank Drain	4.8
2	Nozzle	1
	Tank Drain	1
3	Nozzle	0.2
	Tank Drain	0.2

Source: Nilsson, E., Hagenwall H. og Jorgensen L.

**Table 7.9.1. Quantity and Location of Chemical Remnants in Crop Sprayers (in gallons)**

Location	Sprayer Size		
	159 Gallons- 39 foot boom	212 Gallons - 39 foot boom	396 Gallons - 59 foot boom
Tank	.50	1.32	4.57
Pump and associated piping	.40	.85	2.22
Pressure agitation	.02	.16	.27
Manifold	.04	.16	.27
Filter relief valve	NA	.15	.23
Chemical induction bowl	1.16	1.69	NA
<b>Total without boom</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>7.56</b>
Booms	.50	2.32	4.76
<b>Total with booms</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>12.32</b>

Adapted from "Quantity and Location of Chemical Remnants within a Range of Field Crop Sprayers by S.E. Cooper. Available: [www.hardiinternational.com/Agromony/Education\\_Material/pdf/08a.pdf](http://www.hardiinternational.com/Agromony/Education_Material/pdf/08a.pdf)

Before rinsing a sprayer, read the sprayer manufacturer's instructions for specific guidance on the best methods for cleaning your equipment. Also consult the pesticide label for any special cleaning instructions. When cleaning spray equipment, you should use the protective clothing listed on the pesticide label. Sprayer cleaning should be done so that rinse water does not enter any waterway, field drainage system, or well. Ideally, sprayer rinsate should be applied to a labeled crop rather than dumped at the cleaning location. If rinsing needs to be done at the mixing/loading site, it must be done on an impervious surface. All contaminated rinse water must be trapped and either used to mix another load of the same pesticide at the label recommended rates or disposed of at an approved pesticide waste handling facility.

#### 4.14.1 Reducing Cleaning Problems

The need for cleaning can be reduced by good planning and equipment maintenance. The following are suggestions to help reduce cleaning needs:

- Carefully plan how much pesticide to mix so that all mixed pesticides are used up when you are finished with the field.
- Be sure that the sprayer is clean before you use it.
- Make sure all parts of the sprayer are in good condition. Corroded, cavitated or pitted surfaces are prime areas for pesticide residue to hide. Replace any worn parts.
- Mix the chemicals in the correct order. Some chemicals, when mixed in the wrong order, can actually become more difficult to remove from the equipment. Consult the pesticide label for the proper mixing order.
- Follow any label instructions for cleaning spray equipment.
- Be sure that cleaning solutions contact ALL equipment surfaces.
- Remove and clean filters, strainers and nozzle screens separately from the rest of the sprayer.

#### 4.14.2 Sprayer Cleansers

Several sprayer cleansers are commercially available. These cleansers should be selected based on the pesticide formulation used. Specific recommendations can be found on the pesticide label, by contacting the pesticide manufacturer or through the label or manufacturer of the cleaning agent you wish to use. Some available cleansers are listed in the table below. Household detergents, such as laundry soaps and household ammonia, can also be used, but they may not adequately deactivate and solubilize the pesticides for effective cleaning. Chlorine bleach solutions should not be used. Cleaning agents can be used to wash both the inside and outside of the sprayer. When using commercial cleansers, follow the product's instructions for the best results.

#### 4.14.3 Tank Rinse Systems (Low-Volume Tank Rinsing)

Tank rinse systems consist of a clean water supply tank mounted to the sprayer and one or more rotating discs or nozzles mounted inside the main sprayer tank. Water is pumped from the clean water tank to the rinse nozzles where the water is sprayed around the inside of the spray tank. These systems are designed for in-field rinsing of the sprayer so that the tank washings can be applied to the field and reduce the amount of time spent traveling to and from the farmyard.

A tank rinse system can be purchased as an option on some sprayers or as an add-on kit. Rinse systems can also be made from readily available parts and installed on the sprayer. A sample rinse system layout is shown below. A typical rinse system uses 360-degree tank wash nozzles mounted in the top of the tank. These nozzles are available in flow rates of 10 gallons of water per minute at 20 psi up to 20 GPM at 50 psi. If a spray tank has baffles, at least one rinse nozzle per compartment should be provided. In any case, a sufficient number of rinse nozzles should be installed to provide enough rinse water to contact the entire tank interior.

A 50 to 100 gallon tank is plumbed into the sprayer plumbing system to provide the clean water. This tank should be permanently marked "Clean Water Only" so that only clean water is placed in the tank, reducing the chance for contamination of the rinse system. The tank should be mounted above the pump in order to aid in priming the pump. Ideally, the tank should be mounted on the sprayer.

When using tank rinse systems, you may want to check the pesticide label or with the chemical manufacturer to be sure that low-volume rinsing is suitable for the products you're using. Also, during the rinse process, be sure to open and close the pressure valve and other control valves on the sprayer to ensure that any chemical that may be trapped in the valve is rinsed out, further reducing the chance for contamination of future pesticide mixes. To obtain the best results, practice using the rinse system by placing spray marker dye or food coloring in the spray tank. Using the rinse system, run three rinse cycles, making sure the water discharged from the nozzles is completely clear by the end of the third rinse.

#### 4.14.4 Cleaning the Sprayer

The pesticide applicator should try to keep the volume of tank wash water produced to a minimum. Ideally a tank rinse system should be used. There are two levels of sprayer cleaning:

- where the same or similar products are to be used on consecutive occasions or
- where the type of product is changed for another or at the end of the season.

**Commercially Available Sprayer Cleansers**

Product	Supplier
<b>Protank Cleaner</b>	Agriliance P.O. Box 64089 St. Paul, MN 55164-0089 Phone: (651) 451-5151 Web: www.agriliance.com
<b>All Clear Tank Decontaminator</b>	UAP Loveland Industries, Inc. PO Box 1289 Greeley, CO 80632 Phone: 970-356-8920 Fax: 970-356-8926 Email: webmaster@lovelandindustries.com

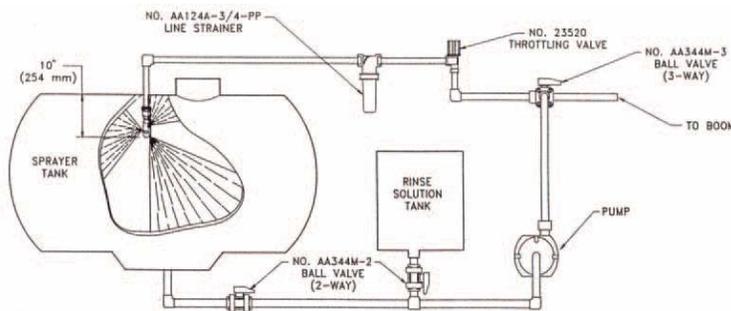
Product	Supplier
<b>Wipe-Out</b>	Helena Chemical Company 225 Schilling Blvd. Collierville, TN 38017 Web: www.helenachemical.com
<b>Ag Chem Tank Cleaner</b>	Ag Chem Equipment Co. Ag-Chem Division 202 Industrial Park Jackson, MN 56143 Phone: 800-760-8800 Web: www.sprayparts.com

**4.14.4.1 Cleaning Where Similar Products are to be Used**

**Reminder:** Before cleaning application equipment, remember to wear the protective clothing listed on the pesticide label.

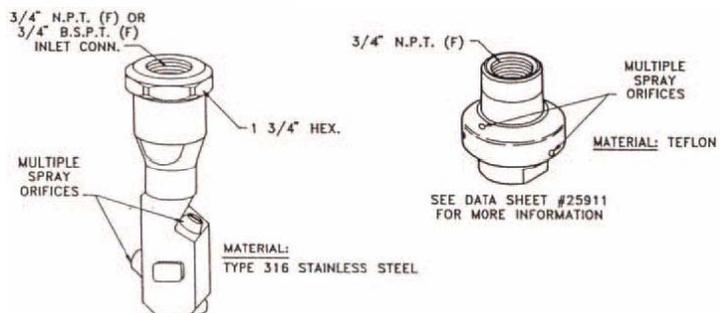
1. Be sure that all mixed pesticides have been used up from the sprayer or removed and disposed of properly.
2. Flush sprayer with clean water, making sure to wash all inside surfaces of the tank, including the underside of the lid. Use of a tank rinse system is preferred so that rinsing can be done in the field where the rinse water can be applied to the crop. If a tank rinse system is not available, fill the spray tank about half full with clean water and flush the system for at least 5 minutes using both agitation and spraying. Be sure to open and close any control valves during the rinse process. The rinsate

3. should be applied to the crop at labeled rates. Repeat this procedure two more times.
3. Hose down the outside of the sprayer making sure to reach all parts, scrubbing if necessary.
4. Remove suction, main and in-line filter elements and wash them thoroughly in clean water using a soft bristle brush. Put the filters back on the sprayer when clean.
5. Remove the nozzles, nozzle screens and nozzle bar end caps (if used) and wash them thoroughly in clean water with the appropriate cleanser and rinse. Remember to use a soft bristle brush, such as an old toothbrush, when cleaning nozzle parts.
6. Partly fill the sprayer with clean water and run the sprayer to flush out all parts.
7. Reinstall nozzles and nozzle screens.
8. Hose down the outside of the sprayer once again.



**Sample layout of a sprayer rinse system**

**Two types of 360-degree tank rinse nozzles**



#### 4.14.4.2 Cleaning Where Product Type is Changed

*This procedure should also be followed at the end of a season or before sprayer maintenance. Reminder: Remember to wear the protective clothing listed on the pesticide label.*

*Follow steps 1–6 above.*

7. Refill the tank with clean water, adding any detergent recommended by the pesticide manufacturer. Remember, use commercial cleansers according to their directions. Agitate the solution and pump it through the sprayer plumbing system.
8. Discharge the cleaning solution from the sprayer through the plumbing system, making sure to drain the system as thoroughly as possible.
9. Rinse the sprayer and flush the plumbing system with clean water.
10. Inspect the sprayer for deposits that may remain in the tank or plumbing system. If any remain, use some of the cleaning solution and scrub the problem spots. Rinse the sprayer out completely.
11. Repeat steps 7 to 9.
12. Hose down the outside of the tractor and sprayer, scrubbing if necessary.
13. If changing from one type of pesticide to another, refit nozzles, filters and other parts that may have been removed in the cleaning process.
14. When cleaning and preparing the sprayer at the end of the season, safely store nozzles and filters to keep them clean and damage-free. Leave valves open and the tank lid loosely closed.

#### 4.14.5 Tank Rinse Nozzle Suppliers

Spraying Systems (TeeJet)

[www.teejet.com/techcent/catalog\\_english/%20spec\\_fert.pdf](http://www.teejet.com/techcent/catalog_english/%20spec_fert.pdf)

Delavan [www.delavan.co.uk/zCIP.pdf](http://www.delavan.co.uk/zCIP.pdf)

#### 4.14.6 Disposal of Pesticide Waste

The safe disposal of pesticide waste is a serious responsibility for growers and spraying contractors. It is important, therefore, that everything should be done to keep to a minimum the amount of waste generated.

**Pesticide waste is of four types:**

- Concentrated products.
- Diluted pesticides, including washings.
- Empty containers.
- Contaminated clothing and other materials.

#### Caution

All mounted sprayers tend to be unstable when removed from their tractors. Make sure they are safely chocked before leaving them.

#### 4.14.7 Mechanical Maintenance

Lubrication must be carried out at the time intervals specified by the sprayer manufacturer. The following components must be checked daily when a sprayer is in use:

- Pump crankshaft oil level.
- Fan drive gearbox oil level.
- Fan drive shaft bearings.
- Agitator shaft bearings.
- PTO shaft bearings.
- PTO shaft safety cover.
- Wheels, wheel bearings and tire inflation.
- Rotary atomizers for damage and lubrication.

Occasionally, for example, after a complete spray round, check the spray liquid system for leaks and signs of damage or wear; repair should be carried out at once.

#### 4.14.8 Storage of Sprayers

Sprayers should be stored carefully after use.

Manufacturers' specific instructions should be followed but in their absence the following general guide should be of use:

1. Thoroughly wash the sprayer inside and out with water, followed by a solution of detergent and water, followed by water. Drain thoroughly. Allow the access of air to all parts of the sprayer system. A more thorough decontamination routine is outlined above.
2. Inspect filters, nozzles, hoses and all other components and order all necessary spares.
3. Pay particular attention to the pump. Inspect rollers or diaphragms (if fitted) and valves and order necessary spares.
4. Check the soundness of all mechanical components, particularly booms and boom hinges, and the wheels.
5. Store sprayer under cover, taking care to prevent dirt and moisture affecting tank or working parts.

#### 4.14.9 References

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Harrison, Scott and Hock, Winand. (undated) Agrichemical Fact Sheet #9 - Options for In-field Pesticide Sprayer

Rinsing and Clean Water Utilization. Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Johnson, Bill, et al. 1997. Cleaning Field Sprayers to Avoid Crop Injury, Fact Sheet G 4852. MU Extension, University of Missouri - Columbia.

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#### 4.15 Homeland Security

OPERATION SAFEGUARD - Information from NY State Office of Homeland Security

The following examples of activity relating to spraying equipment, though not fully inclusive, may be of possible concern to law enforcement.

- The unexplained loss or theft or attempted theft of equipment or separate machine components used in agricultural spraying or mosquito extermination (i.e. mist blowers, tanks, axial or centrifugal fans, diaphragm pumps, nozzles, spouts, pressure regulators, etc).
- Inquiries from unknown persons as to the purchase or operation of spraying equipment; approach from a previously unknown customer whose identity is not clear; a customer's use of evasive responses.
- Unusual inquiries about modifying spraying equipment.
- Requests for information or for purchase of pesticides that may be harmful to humans.
- Individual making observations of your spraying operations, who when approached, deliberately leave to avoid questioning.
- A request to purchase spraying machinery by someone who does not appear to have previous experience in such work or a connection to the agricultural industry or mosquito extermination effort (i.e. unable to answer basic questions about intended application and range, water volume rates, desired nozzle output, spray pattern, acreage, crops, soil composition, etc).
- A request to ship spraying equipment to an area or region not normally associated with spraying operations.
- A customer's reluctance to provide information on the locations of the plant or place where the equipment will be stored.