

Horticultural Spraying Specialists

Spray coverage testing



Spray coverage testing is neither a science nor an art. It is a vital part of ensuring spray droplets reach the target of the canopy, fruit, flowers or wood. It is very much a case of careful observation combined with using the tools available to measure droplet deposition, as well as keeping records as the work is done.

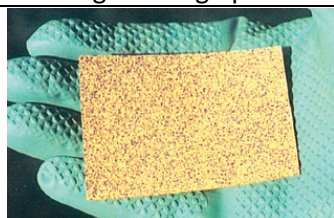
Early in the season it is reasonably easy to observe coverage on the canes, branches, buds and early season foliage. It's still a good idea to use some water sensitive paper to check coverage and droplet deposition. Where it gets more critical is nearing flowering, when foliage on most horticultural crops is growing rapidly and filling in the gaps. Further into the season, when canopy growth is more or less complete, it is important to recheck and adjust things to ensure the best coverage you can achieve is realised.

Even small adjustments can make a big difference – these may include application rate, air delivery (angles, air volume and/or speed), speed of travel and nozzle type & angle.

We can help you work through a process that will give you the best chance of getting you crop protection products onto your trees, vines or plants where they can do what they are designed for.

In vegetables, spray coverage is just as important. The challenges are no less difficult than in trees & vines. Nozzle selection, adjuvants and spraying speed are important tools to help with vegetables, especially with leafy vegetable crops.

Coverage testing options include:



At left:

Water sensitive paper is an excellent and fairly quick way to check coverage. Spread throughout the trees or vines, they give a fairly instant snapshot of spray coverage. It also allows for adjustments to be made, and a fairly quick re-check done. In tree crops, it also allows checking of droplet deposition at different heights – very useful as the tops of trees are often where problems arise.



At left:

Fluorescent dye can be sprayed and then later, after dark, a UV light can be used to find out how coverage is looking. The disadvantage is there is a wait until changes can be measured. Also, a UV light source of sufficient power is needed, otherwise seeing the results can be difficult.

If you would like help to check spray coverage, we can help. Plan in advance as there is some set up to do beforehand.

Ensure you contact us if this is something you would like to consider or need help with.

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