



Technical notes – Spray coverage

1. What exactly is “*spray coverage*”?

Without making the explanation too technical – it is the number and distribution of spray droplets on your intended target – target being such things as foliage, fruit, wood, weed canopy, florets or any other plant target you require to spray for pest & disease control or weed control.

2. Why is spray coverage so important?

There are several factors as to why it’s important to have good spray coverage. Such things as:

- To ensure spray distribution is as even as possible on your intended target
- To ensure parts of the plant, or target, are not “under-dosed” which could lead to poor product performance and/or resistance building up over time due to this under-dosing – especially after multiple applications over several seasons
- If you use concentrate spraying (rather than dilute application) coverage is even more critical as the margin for error diminishes as spray application rates go lower
- New chemistry is being introduced to the market – which is great – it is often “softer”, meaning it is not as broad-spectrum as older products, kinder on beneficial species, and more specific to the disease being treated. However, the label often tells us that *good coverage is vital*
- Each time you spray your crop, or weeds, you invest time, money and effort to get a good result. If spray coverage is not optimum, this leads to failures and/or disease issues, in turn leading to reduced crop and a lot of stress

3. How do we measure spray coverage?

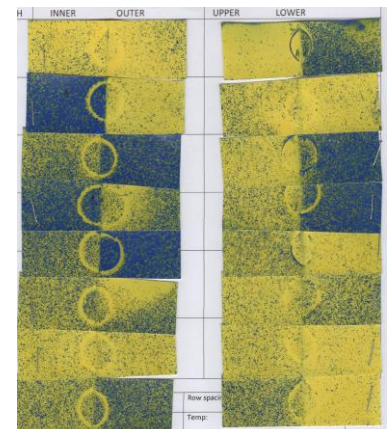
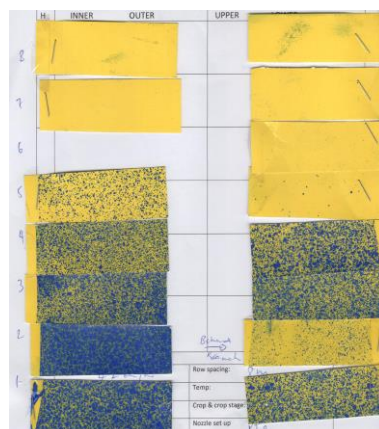
At Hortspray, we use water sensitive paper to measure spray coverage – examples below show some typical results.

Why do we use this method? It’s relatively easy and fast to do, it is very visual, it can give us a percentage coverage result, we can put the papers at intervals up a tree to see what the distribution of spray looks like, and it’s easy to teach growers how to do it. It’s also repeatable to make improvements easier to measure.

Far right: an example of good spray coverage – even from top to bottom

Right: an example of poor coverage – ok lower in the canopy, but very poor in the top of the canopy – this is typical of what we see

In both cases, we have measured the spray coverage in both the vertical and horizontal planes. This can be useful to help interpret any issues.



If you suspect your spray coverage is not optimal, or you are experiencing product issues, contact us to have a chat about coverage testing.