

Application Quick Tips

Successful crop protection as part of a grower's Integrated Pest Management program requires proper application. When performed correctly, pest control can be optimized and growers can achieve reductions in water product and drift potential — not to mention greater returns and a reduction in environmental impact.

Follow these quick tips to best avoid spray drift and achieve effective applications.



WHAT

Calibrate application equipment to ensure product is accurately directed to the trees' target areas, thus reducing waste.



WHEN

Equipment should be calibrated at least annually. Air blast sprayers, specifically, should be calibrated twice a season: in late-fall for dormancy through petal fall timings, and in spring once full leaf-out occurs.



WHERE

Before making an application, map out your orchard and determine if there are areas (roads, waterways, habitat, housing, etc.) where particular care is needed. Only spray inward – into the orchard – on outside passes.



HOW

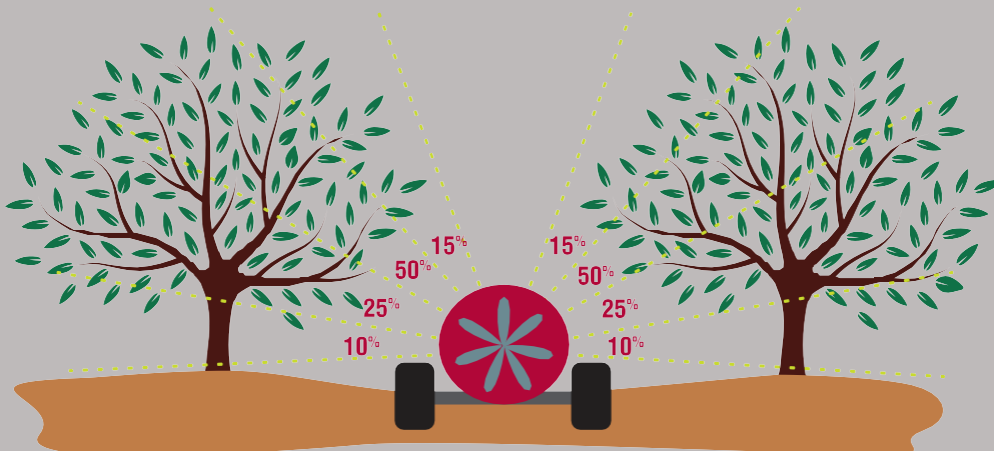
Plan ahead and be strategic:

- Log all dates when calibration, repairs, and maintenance occur.
- Check the temperature and relative humidity before spraying.
 - Conditions that are too hot and dry can reduce coverage by 50%.
- Consider wind direction and the orchard's surroundings before spraying. Spraying should occur between wind speeds of 2-10 mph.
- Drive at speeds that match the canopy's characteristics, considering size, foliage density, etc. Spray efficacy is highly correlated with slower speed once spur leaves are fully expanded (in March).
- When spraying for weeds, use boom shields, drift guards and/or low-drift nozzles to keep herbicide sprays focused on target weeds.
- Before application, ensure nozzles are adjusted appropriately for your orchard's specific needs. Use nozzles that deliver larger droplets when risk of drift is high.



WHY

Ensuring the product hits the target and your spray is as effective as possible helps reduce waste and provide benefits to the environment. Further, logging information will help you compare year-to-year costs for your applications and see where adjustments can be made.



Courtesy of Mel Machado

If you divide the tree into quadrants, starting at the top, each quadrant should receive 15%, 50%, 25% and 10% of the volume, respectively.

Using this breakdown will give you 65% coverage in the top half of the tree and 35% in the bottom half. By default, 75% of the volume will be directed to the middle of the tree.