POISON CONTROL CENTERS IN ARKANSAS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has established a Poison Control System throughout the nation. Participating hospitals function on a voluntary basis to provide special emergency aid in case of chemical intoxication. Each Poison Control Center has the capability to determine the toxic constituent of commercial products, respond to calls from physicians or individuals and provide supportive or antidotal treatment.

In a pesticide or poisoning emergency, call 1-800-222-1222. Your call will be directed to the nearest Poison Control Center.

INSECTICIDE APPLICATION

The success of any insecticide treatment depends upon proper application. There are several variables that impact proper application. This material briefly discusses application guidelines such as calibration, tank mixing, agitation, spray volume, drift control and nozzle selection. For more detailed information on most aspects of spray application, contact your county Extension office.

Checklist for Proper Spray Application

If you cannot check all the following (where applicable), perhaps you have a weakness in your sprayer program that can be corrected.

- ☐ Sprayer is calibrated accurately. (**Pages 5 and 6**)
- ☐ Band width is accurately measured and broadcast rates are changed for banding applications. (**Page 6**)
- ☐ Use a minimum screen size of 50 mesh for wettable powders or flowables.
- ☐ Have proper agitation (not just bypass) for powders and flowables. (**Page 9**)
- ☐ Refer to label and precautions in this publication to choose proper spray volume and pressure for insecticide used. (**Page 9**)
- ☐ Use the appropriate style nozzle designed to balance drift control and coverage. (**Pages 7 and 8**)
- ☐ Use nozzles designed to resist wear when applying wettable powders or flowables. (**Page 7**)
- ☐ Properly clean application equipment when switching pesticides and at the end of day. (**Page 10**)

Sprayer Calibration

No single aspect of spray application is as important and as abused as sprayer calibration. There is no way to accurately apply an insecticide without accurately calibrating the sprayer and figuring the tank mix. Using the following method and examples, you can calibrate quickly and easily.

Measuring Travel Speed

Measure a test course in the area to be sprayed or in an area with similar surface conditions. Minimum lengths of 100 and 200 feet are recommended for measuring speeds up to 5 and 10 mph, respectively. Determine the time required to travel the test course. To help ensure accuracy, conduct the speed check with a loaded sprayer and select the engine throttle setting and gear that will be used when spraying. Repeat the above process and average the times that were measured. Use the following equation or the table below to determine ground speed.

$$\text{Speed (mph)} = \frac{\text{Distance (ft)} \times 60}{\text{Time (seconds)} \times 88}$$

Determining Gallons Per Acre (Ounce Method)

1. Check the table below for the proper distance related to the row or nozzle spacing on your sprayer. For broadcast, use nozzle spacing; for band application such as post directed or band behind press wheel, use row spacing. Mark off this distance in the field you will be spraying.

Row or Nozzle Spacing (inches)	Calibration Distance (feet)	Row or Nozzle Spacing (inches)	Calibration Distance (feet)
40	102	28	146
38	107	26	157
36	113	24	170
34	120	22	185
32	127	20	204
30	136	18	227

For row or nozzle spacing's and calibration distances not shown here – any calibration distance (feet) may be determined by the following equation:

4080/average row or nozzle spacing (in inches).

All rates are given as broadcast rates. For band application, you must adjust the rate by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Band Width}}{\text{Row Width}} \times \text{Broadcast Rate} = \text{Band Rate}$$

2. Attach row conditioner, Triple-K, planter or whatever tool is to be pulled by the tractor when spraying. Engage the tool to the proper depth and use the throttle setting and gear that will be used for spraying. Note the time in seconds on a stopwatch that it takes to drive the calibration distance measured.

3. Catch the nozzle discharge for the noted time in Step 2 in a container graduated in ounces (plastic measuring cup, baby bottle, etc.). If you are using a broadcast boom with nozzles spaced evenly, catch the output from one nozzle for the time measured in Step 2. If more than one nozzle per row is used (directed, insecticide or fungicide rig), catch the spray from each nozzle for the time noted in Step 2. Then combine the amount from all nozzles spraying on a single row.

4. The total discharge measured in ounces is equal to the gallons per acre applied. With a broadcast boom, this is the amount caught from one nozzle. Where you have used row spacing in Step 1, all nozzles directed to that row must be measured to determine the gallons per acre.

5. Check each nozzle to ensure equal spray distribution across the width of the sprayer. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 to ensure that nozzles do not vary more than 10 percent across the width of the sprayer.

Determining Tank Mix

Divide tank refill capacity by the calibrated gallons per acre (determined in Step 4). This is the number of acres the sprayer will cover per refill. Multiply the broadcast rate of insecticide (or band rate) times the acreage per refill to get the amount of insecticide (commercial product) to be put in the tank.

Example 1 – Broadcast Application

A grower will apply Anychem 1 with a broadcast boom having nozzles spaced 20 inches apart while pulling a disk for incorporation.

1. The distance to travel for 20-inch nozzle spacing is 204 feet. Next, measure and flag off 204 feet in the field to be sprayed.
2. Select the desired gear and throttle setting with the disk down. Let's say it takes 20 seconds to cover the 204 feet.
3. Set the pressure to be used and catch the output from one nozzle for 20 seconds (the time required to travel the 204 feet).
4. The output in ounces is the amount applied in gallons per acre. If the nozzle output was 15 ounces in 20 seconds, the sprayer applies 15 gpa.
5. Repeat Step 4 checking each nozzle.

Let's assume you have a 200-gallon tank and wish to apply one pint of Anychem 1 per acre.

$$\frac{200\ \text{gal/refill}}{15\ \text{gpa}} = 13.3\ \text{acres covered per tank (or refill)}$$

Since you wish to use 1 pt/A, you would use 13.3 pints of Anychem 1 per refill; i.e.,1 pt/A × 13.3 acres = 13.3 pints. [See Note in Example 2.]

Example 2 – Band Behind Planter

A grower will apply Anychem 2 behind his planter with a 14-inch spray band on a 38-inch row.

1. The distance to travel for a 38-inch row is 107 feet.
2. Select the planting speed and travel the measured 107 feet with planter down. Let's say it takes 18 seconds in this example.
3. Set the pressure and catch the output from one nozzle for 18 seconds (the time required to travel 107 feet).
4. The output in ounces is the amount applied in gallons per acre. If the nozzle output was 10 ounces in 18 seconds, the sprayer applies 10 gpa. (This is all on a band.)
5. Repeat Step 4 checking each nozzle.

Let's assume a 400-gallon tank (two 200-gallon saddle tanks) refill capacity and the rate of Anychem 2 50W for your soil is 1 pound/A broadcast. Reduce this rate to a 14-inch band.

$$\frac{14''\ \text{band}}{38''\ \text{row}} \times \frac{1\ \text{lb}}{A} = \frac{0.37\ \text{lb}}{A}\ \text{to be applied on the band}$$

$$\frac{400\ \text{gal/refill}}{10\ \text{gpa}} = 40\ \text{acres per tank refill}$$

$$40\ \text{acres} \times 0.37\ \text{lb/A} = 14.8\ \text{lb of Anychem 2 50W per tank refill}$$

(7.4 pounds in each 200-gallon saddle tank)

NOTE: Plan on the amount of water required to refill the tank, not the capacity of the tank itself. For example, if you have the above 200-gallon saddle tanks but you have 50 gallons of spray left in each when you refill, it only takes 300 gallons to refill them.

Therefore:

$$\frac{\textit{300 gal/refill}}{\textit{10 gpa}} = \textit{30 acres per refill}$$

30 A/refill × 0.37 lb/A = 11 lb of Anychem 2 50W per refill

(5.5 pounds in each of the two tanks)

Example 3 – Directed Spray

A grower will apply Anychem 3 + Anychem 4 on a 16-inch band on a 32-inch row using 2 OC-02 nozzles per row (one on each side). **[Step 1]** The distance to travel for a 32-inch row is 127 feet. **[Step 2]** Select speed and drive the 127 feet. Assume it takes 15 seconds. **[Step 3]** Set the pressure and catch each of the two nozzles per row for 15 seconds or time determined in Step 2. **[Step 4]** Add the quantity from the two tips. The amount in ounces is the gallons per acre. Assume 5 ounces per tip for a total of 10; therefore, a 10 gpa output. **[Step 5]** Repeat Step 4 checking the nozzles on each row.

Let's assume two 200-gallon saddle tanks and the broadcast rate is 1 pound Anychem 3 50W + 1 pint Anychem 4 per acre. Reduce the rates for the 16-inch band.

16/32 × 1 lb = 1/2 lb Anychem 3 ***16/32 × 1 pt = 1/2 pt Anychem 4/A***

$$\frac{\textit{400 gal tank capacity}}{\textit{10 gpa}} = \textit{40 acres per refill}$$

40 acres × 1/2 lb Anychem 3 = 20 lb Anychem 3

40 acres × 1/2 pt Anychem 4 = 20 pt Anychem 4

Put 1/2 this amount (10 lb Anychem 3 + 10 pt Anychem 4) in each tank.

Nozzle Selection

Insecticides are best applied with the proper nozzle tip design. A balance must be struck for each application between responsible drift control and acceptable coverage. This balance will change depending on controllable factors like the pesticide formulation, pressure, rate and equipment speed. Nozzle manufacturers have made much advancement in spray technology recently. These advancements have set producers up to be more effective, more efficient and more responsible applicators. Next to calibration and proper tank mixing, nozzle selection is key to proper application.

Nozzle Nomenclature

In addition to a company's name, most nozzle tips are coded with important information – often starting with an abbreviation of a nozzle type, next is usually fan angle, then flow rate and finally the tip material composition.

Example – TeeJet AIXR11002 VS is an air induction (AI), extended range (XR), 110° flat fan, size number 02 (0.2 GPM), color coded (V - ISO color coding system) and stainless steel nozzle (S) that is made by Spray Systems Company.

Tip Materials and Durability

Tips are available in a number of materials. Stainless steel, hardened stainless steel, nylon and ceramics offer the best wear characteristics and are often worth the additional cost, especially when using abrasive products like wettable powders. Plastic tips are now available that are imbedded with more durable materials in key locations. These tips offer the durability of stainless steel or ceramic nozzles at a fraction of the cost.

Common Nozzle Spray Patterns

- **Standard Flat-Fan** – common broadcast nozzle, poor drift control and narrow recommended pressure range. ***30-60 psi***
- **Extended Range Flat** – better spray distribution over wider pressure range. Provides some drift control at low pressures (<30 psi). ***15-60 psi***
- **Even Flat-Fan** – used to band rows uniformly. Not a broadcast tip. ***20-60 psi***
- **Off-Center Flat** – used on boom ends to increase uniformity and width of spray swath. Also used for banding under foliage. ***30-115 psi***
- **Twin Orifice Flat** – produces one fan tilted forward and one tilted backward. Improves coverage of contact pesticides but highly drift prone. ***30-60 psi***
- **Hollow Cone** – common in directed contact pesticides because of fine spray pattern and excellent coverage. Very drift prone. ***40-100 psi***

Many of the listed spray patterns offer excellent coverage of both contact and systemic pesticides. Excellent coverage can come with very small spray droplets known as driftable fines. Nozzle manufacturers have worked hard to maintain desired levels of coverage while reducing economic and environmental damage caused by pesticide drift. This work has produced many options of common spray patterns with added drift control technology from which applicators can select. Applicators should select nozzle options carefully to ensure proper coverage while responsibly controlling driftable fines.

Tips for Balancing Drift Control and Coverage

When wind velocity is too high to be practical, the best solution is to park the sprayer. However, there are approaches to compensate for some wind. Spray droplets should always be as large as possible while still obtaining appropriate coverage. This is particularly true in a high drift potential application. One solution is to change tips. Use a larger tip (i.e., an 8005 instead of an 8003), and lower the spray pressure (i.e., go up on the nozzle size and down on the pressure). Also, consider a wider angle tip such as a 11003 instead of an 8003. This allows the nozzle to be adjusted closer to the ground without changing the width of the spray pattern where it contacts the ground. A more recent option is to change your tip design, such as adding tips with air induction, pre-orifice and/or turbulence chamber technology. Coverage can be improved with drift reduction tips by using tips with multiple nozzles facing different angles across the boom.

Air induction style nozzles emit fewer fines and can be a very good tool to avoid drift potential. Air induction tips are typically not as sensitive to droplet size changes as operating pressures increase. This helps avoid small droplet formations when the sprayer is operating at higher speeds and the flow control is increasing pressure to ensure the correct dosage. Some examples of tips that have air induction capabilities are Greenleaf Technologies Air Mix and TurboDrop series; Hypro's Ultra Low Drift (ULD) and Guardian Air (GA) series; and TeeJet Technologies Air Induction (AI) and Turbo Tee Induction (TTI) series.

Pre-orifices meter the flow of pesticide before it reaches the spray orifice. This produces a larger droplet spectrum and helps to reduce the number of drift-prone fines. Examples of tips using pre-orifice technology include Wilger Industries Small Range (SR), Medium Range (MR) and Drift Reduction (DR) tips; TeeJet Technologies Drift Guard (DG), Air Induction (AI), Turbo Tee (TT), Turbo Tee Induction (TTI) and Air Induction Extended Range (AIXR) series; Hypro's Guardian (GRD) and Guardian Air (GA) series; and Greenleaf Technologies Turbo Drop XL (TDXL) series.

Nozzles that use **turbulence chambers** go one step further. This design uses a pre-orifice to meter the pesticide into the turbulence chamber and then out of the final orifice (often a smaller size). These nozzles are designed to produce a larger droplet with more uniform coverage along the boom. Examples of tips using turbulence chamber technology include Hypro's Guardian (GRD) and Guardian Air (GA) series; TeeJet Technologies Drift Guard (DG) and Turbo Tee (TT) series: and Wilger Industries Small Range (SR), Medium Range (MR), and Drift Reduction (DR) tips.

Twin or duo nozzles facing forward and backward across the boom can increase coverage when using drift control tips. Depending on the manufacturer, these will be two nozzles molded into one body or two separate nozzles plumbed together. If used properly, twin nozzle configuration can improve foliar penetration and coverage while using drift control tips. Examples of twin or duo nozzles are TeeJet Technologies Turbo TeeJet Duo Dual Polymer Nozzle and Greenleaf Technologies TurboDrop Asymmetric DualFan Nozzle.

Quick Reference Guide to Selecting a Nozzle

1. **Read the pesticide label** to find the following information. Some information may not be on the label and should be determined by University of Arkansas Systems Division of Agriculture recommendations or equipment capabilities.

   a. Spray volume (GPA) __________
   b. Droplet classification (for example, coarse) __________
   c. Nozzle type (if listed) __________
   d. Select an appropriate travel speed (mph) __________
   e. Determine boom spacing in inches (W)* __________

2. **Calculate needed nozzle discharge** using the following formula.

$$GPM\ (per\ nozzle) = \frac{GPA \times mph \times W}{5{,}940}$$

   ***W** – Spray width (inch) for single nozzle, band spraying or boomless spraying.
   – For directed spraying, divide row spacing (inch) by the number of nozzles per row.
   – If the "W" term is the width of the band, do not worry about converting for bandwidth, it is inclusive.

3. **Consult a nozzle catalog or website** to select a nozzle**.** Nozzle catalogs will be organized by nozzle type first. Use the information described in this section and the information from the catalog to select a nozzle type. Next, use the recommended droplet classification from the label and the nozzle discharge rate calculated from Step 2 to determine the proper tip size.

   Many nozzles may fit your qualifications. Try to find a nozzle that operates at a lower pressure and allows you to operate comfortably in your droplet classification.

4. Once nozzles are installed, do not forget to **recalibrate your sprayer**.

Another way to quickly and easily obtain a nozzle recommendation is to visit a nozzle manufacturer's website and locate their nozzle selection tool. Simply type in the information that has been identified from **Step 1** and the website will generate a list of appropriate nozzles from which you may select. Nozzle manufacturer URLs and their Nozzle Selection Tools URLs are listed on page 9.

Nozzle Resources

Manufacturers of spray nozzles provide a wealth of information about the selection, setup and use of their products in their catalogs. These include such things as hose flow information and nozzle selection guides. Typically, the guides will show setup criteria and give recommendations for contact and systemic differences. It would be impractical to reprint all of that information here. Manuals or catalogs for the specific product you are using can be obtained from dealers. If you cannot locate a personal copy, each county Extension office usually keeps at least one copy of popular brand item catalogs. The more common way is to access this information over the Internet. Several URL listings are included for some of the more popular manufacturers on page 9.

Nozzle and Tip Companies

Greenleaf Technologies
Phone: 800-881-4832
http://www.greenleaftech.com
greenleaftech.com/dynamic.php?pg=Choosing_the_Right_Nozzle/Nozzle_Calculator

Pentair Hypro SHURflo
Phone: 800-445-8360
http://hypro.pentair.com/en
http://hypro.pentair.com/en/spray-it

Spray Systems Company - Teejet Technologies
Phone: 630-665-5000
www.teejet.com
http://www.teejet.com/spray_application/nozzles.shtml

Wilger Industries Ltd.
Phone: 877-968-7695 or 731-968-7695
www.wilger.net
http://www.wilger.net/index.php/tip-wizard

Sprayer Tank Agitation

The type of pesticide formulation dictates the need for agitation. Soluble liquids, soluble powders and emulsifiable concentrates require little agitation. Usually the flow from the bypass hose maintains a uniform mixture.

Wettable powders and flowable formulations are only in suspension, and they require vigorous agitation to prevent settling out. Many instances can be cited where insufficient agitation has resulted in undesirable responses. Consider the following when examining the need for agitation in application equipment:

- Insufficient agitation can cost more than the entire sprayer costs.
- Running a bypass hose into the tank is not agitation.
- Agitation can be expected to use more pump capacity than the nozzles require.
- Pre-mixing wettable powders will get pesticides into suspension; insufficient agitation allows them to drop out. Continue agitation until all the spray is distributed.

Spray Volumes

In general, spray volumes should be in the 10 to 20 GPA range for most insecticides. For band applications, a volume equivalent to 1/2 gallon per inch of band is sufficient (i.e., 10 GPA on a 20-inch band). Refer to the comments on each insecticide to note any specific application instructions.

Tips for Proper Mixing

1. See that equipment is clean and in good running condition, free of oil, grease or residue.
2. Be sure to have a shut-off valve installed in the bottom of each tank.
3. Use a 16-mesh suction screen to allow chemicals to circulate through the pump.
4. If there is any question about chemical compatibility, do a jar test first.
5. Always follow label instructions about mixtures. In absence of instructions, use the WALE method.
6. Add chemicals in the W-A-L-E sequence.
    - Wettable powders or water dispersible granules
    - Agitation
    - Liquids (flowable liquids)
    - Emulsifiable concentrates
    - Surfactants and solutions
7. Begin with tank 1/4 full of carrier and start agitation until solution is rolling.
8. W – Add all W and WDG chemicals to solution.
9. A – Get good, strong agitation with a rolling effect on the surface of the carrier. Allow time for good dispersal.
10. L – Next add all L or F while continuing to agitate.
11. E – Finally, add all E or EC.
12. Empty the tank as much as possible before mixing a new batch.

Compatibility Test

Since liquid fertilizers can vary, even within the same analysis, always check compatibility with insecticide(s) each time before use. Be especially careful when using complete suspension or fluid fertilizers, as serious compatibility problems are more likely to occur. Commercial application equipment may improve compatibility in some instances. The following test assumes a spray volume of 25 gallons per acre. For other spray volumes, make appropriate changes in the ingredients. Check compatibility using this procedure:

1. Add 1 pint of fertilizer to each of two 1-quart jars with tight lids.
2. To one of the jars, add 1/4 tsp or 1.2 milliliters of a compatibility agent approved for this use, such as Compex or Unite (1/4 tsp is equivalent to 2 pt per 100 gal spray). Shake or stir gently to mix.
3. To both jars, add the appropriate amount of insecticide(s). If more than one insecticide is used, add them separately with dry insecticides first, flowables next and emulsifiable concentrates last. After each addition, shake or stir gently to thoroughly mix. The appropriate amount of insecticides for this test follows.
4. *Dry Insecticides:* For each pound to be applied per acre, add 1.5 level teaspoons to each jar. *Liquid Insecticides:* For each pint to be applied per acre, add 0.5 teaspoon or 2.5 milliliters to each jar.
5. After adding all ingredients, put lids on and tighten. Invert each jar ten times to mix. Let the mixtures stand 15 minutes and then look for separation, large flakes, precipitates, gels, heavy oily film on the jar or other signs of incompatibility. Determine if the compatibility agent is needed in the spray mixture by comparing the two jars. If either mixture separates but can be remixed readily, the mixture can be sprayed as long as good agitation is used. If the mixtures are incompatible, test the following methods of improving compatibility: (A) slurry the dry insecticide(s) in water before addition or (B) add one-half of the compatibility agent to the fertilizer and the other one-half to the emulsifiable concentrate or flowable insecticide before addition to the mixture.

Application Equipment Cleanout

Equipment cleanout is essential to avoid crop injury from a contaminated sprayer. It is particularly important when changing from wettable powders that are more prone to collect in filters, boom and nozzle bodies. Ensure proper clean-out by disassembling, inspecting and cleaning trouble areas when using these products. Also, many growth regulating herbicides can be particularly destructive to sensitive crops even in extremely small concentrations. Ensure proper cleanout by using proper soaking procedures and always refer to product labels for any clarification.

Following the procedures specified on the pesticide or commercial cleaner label is critical to removing pesticide residue from the sprayer system. Consult labels of the products that were previously in the tank and for the products that will be used for the next application for specific cleaning and mixing/loading instructions.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture recommends a minimum triple rinse for cleanout of all pesticides regardless of label recommendations.

FORMULATIONS AND CONCENTRATIONS

Aerosols (A) – solid or liquid air suspensions of ultramicroscopic size which remain suspended for long periods.

Baits (B) – a poison or poisons plus some substance which will attract the insect.

Dusts (D) – diluted toxicant with finely ground, dried plant materials or minerals. These include wheat, soybean, walnut shells, talc, clay or sulfur.

Emulsifiable Concentrates (E or EC) – insecticide and an emulsifying agent in a suitable solvent. These are diluted with water to form an emulsion and applied as sprays.

Flowable (F) / Liquid (L) – viscous concentrate of suspended pesticide in water.

Fumigant – substance or mixture of substances which produce gas, vapor, fume or smoke intended to destroy insects, bacteria, rodents or other organisms.

Granules (G) – insecticide attached to an inert carrier of 30- to 60-mesh particle size.

Low Volume (LV) / Concentrated Low Volume (CLV) / Ultra Low Volume (ULV) – formulation containing higher concentration of active ingredient per gallon of formulation that results in a lower volume of formulation per unit area.

Pellet (P or PS) – granular formulation where all of the particles are of the same weight and size.

Ready To Use (RTU) – formulation in a form that requires no mixing before use.

Soluble Powder (SP) / Water Soluble Powders (WSP) – powder formulation that dissolves in water.

Solutions (S) – liquid forms of insecticides that are dissolved in suitable solvents such as petroleum distillates or liquid gas. Oil-based cattle sprays, household sprays and gas-propelled aerosols are examples of insecticide solutions.

Suspension Concentrates (SC) or **Capsule Suspensions (CS)** – particles in suspension.

Water-Dispersible Granules (WDG) / Dry Flowables (DF) – granules of a pesticide formulation that disperse in water to form a spray solution.

Wettable Powders (WP) – dry forms of insecticides in which the toxicant is impregnated or absorbed on powders that can be readily mixed with water because a wetting agent has been added. These form a suspension-type spray that must be kept agitated in a sprayer tank.