
PROPERTY SPRAY PLAN PROCEDURE

PURPOSE

Property Spray Plans are a legal requirement of Regional Authorities and it is the MSOs responsibility to be aware of and comply with all legal requirements.

Property Spray Plans summarise how a grower or other agrichemical user responsibly manages agrichemical use on their property and/or other properties. The plan describes how any adverse effects on people and the environment will be avoided or minimised. It is important to understand that a Property Spray Plan is not a Site Plan or a Spray Diary, however Spray Diaries are an important component of responsible agrichemical use.

The property Spray Plan should be made available on request, to any owner or occupier of any sensitive area likely to be directly affected by the spray application. Privacy issues must be considered when providing spray plans to other parties. In the event an issue is identified with the spray practices on an orchard e.g. a complaint about spray drift, or product contamination, then a Spray Plan may be requested to be provided to the Regional Authorities or other enforcement agencies. In these circumstances a Spray Plan will aid in demonstrating that all practical measures for responsible spray application have been considered and put in place.

A Spray Plan template is provided in the GAP Resource section of the Grower Manual. Alternatively a suitable online Spray Plan developed by HortPlus and Plant and Food is available at www.sprayplan.co.nz.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE A SPRAY PLAN

The MSO is responsible for holding the plan and ensuring it remains up to date at all times. This may require the MSO to obtain some information from their spray contractor/s. A Spray Plan should be specific to a KPIN because each KPIN will have different risks and hence different controls required. Where KPINs are very similar then one Spray Plan could cover multiple KPINs as long as all orchard maps are included and the details in the plan clearly refer to the KPINs it is covering.

The MSO should provide the Spray Plan to their spray contractor so that the contractor is aware of all sensitive areas prior to spraying. It also allows the contractors to be familiar with the re-entry and notification systems specific for the orchard to ensure that their part in these processes is completed.

WHEN TO UPDATE/REVISE THE SPRAY PLAN

The Spray Plan is a “living document” and must be reviewed annually and updated with any significant changes. The date of review must be recorded clearly on the Spray Plan, identifying sensitive areas:

- ⇒ Changes in neighbours/contact details

- ➔ Changes in planned agrichemical use
- ➔ Changes in Orchard Manager/ Spray Operator details
- ➔ Changes to specific hazards (e.g. Bee toxicity, Aquatic toxicity)

WHAT DOES THE SPRAY PLAN COVER

The focus of the Spray Plan is not on having an exact record of every spray application, but on identifying and mitigating the effects the agrichemical applications have on the surroundings.

The following information must be considered and recorded in your Spray Plan:

WHAT TO CONSIDER

Who is responsible for the agrichemical application?

- ➔ The MSO is ultimately responsible even if they are NOT the applicator

Who is the applicator? Contractor or Spray Applicator?

- ➔ Suitable qualifications, refer to Management of Agrichemicals NZS8409:2021 and Section 6.3 “Growsafe Training Decision Diagram (Agrichemical User)”
- ➔ Provision of medical checks where applicable

What is the target area to be sprayed?

- ➔ Kiwifruit/shelter/headlands etc
- ➔ Time of the day/year
 - ⦿ What impacts does this have?
 - Flowering plants in sward/shelterbelt
 - Increased seasonal winds
 - Sensitive Areas/Neighbours
 - Activity/location of bees etc

What is the agrichemical?

- ➔ Consider specific HASNO requirements
 - ⦿ Specific health and safety requirements/conditions of use

What is the application method, rate, additives?

- ➔ Last sprayer calibration
- ➔ What technology is appropriate or required (e.g. AI nozzles)

Any specific hazards relating to the agrichemical?

- ➔ i.e., bee toxicity, aquatic toxicity

What is done with surplus mix and empty containers?

- ➔ Use of Agrecovery - Documentation of receipts

- ⇒ Storage and management prior to disposal, refer to NZS8409:2021

SENSITIVE AREAS THAT NEED PROTECTING

Growers must consider the risks of agrichemical drift outside of their property boundary. In particular, specific “sensitive areas” where the impact of spray drift may be more serious must be considered and a plan to mitigate spray drift to these areas must be made

Sensitive areas must be clearly identified and recorded (on a map) including descriptions and locations of neighbouring:

- ⇒ Crops
- ⇒ Schools/ hospital buildings
- ⇒ Childcare centres
- ⇒ Residential buildings inc. garden areas
- ⇒ Playgrounds/sports fields
- ⇒ Public amenity areas- includes parks/reserves
- ⇒ Water supply catchments and intakes
- ⇒ Incompatible crops or farming systems (e.g., organic farms, greenhouses)
- ⇒ Roads - especially those used by children such as school bus routes
- ⇒ Community buildings & grounds

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MANAGE THE RISK OF DRIFT TO SENSITIVE AREAS (AND ANY DRIFT OUTSIDE OF THE PROPERTY)?

Identify the measures to be used to avoid contamination of sensitive areas and record these in your Spray Plan

- ⇒ Low drift (AI) nozzles, no-spray buffer zones, favourable wind direction, school holidays, robust shelter with no gaps)
- ⇒ Wind direction and wind speed considerations. No spraying if wind speeds are greater than 5 m/s.

After considering the Spray Plan, a Site Risk Assessment is recommended to be completed by the Spray Applicator/Contractor prior to commencing spraying on site. The Site Risk Assessment does not replace the Spray Plan, but provides an additional opportunity to consider whether the job can be done safely and effectively given the conditions on-site at the time of spraying, this includes the weather conditions. Please check with your local authorities for any specific regulations around Site Risk Assessments.

NOTIFICATION OF NEIGHBOURS

A list of all neighbours (including contact details) within 50m of spray activity must be maintained on the Spray Plan.

- ⇒ Checking Council regulations if spraying near Amenity areas/Public Areas. As there usually are additional notification rules required.

Notification of neighbours within 50 metres of spray activity must be advised prior to each application.

- ➔ Notification is the responsibility of the MSO
- ➔ Applicators should check with the MSO prior to application that notification has occurred.
- ➔ Notification must be done between 12 and 72 hours prior to the application (no less than 12 hours). Check with your Regional Council for specific notification requirements.
- ➔ Notification must be done via phone, text, letter, email, face to face or third party notification service (i.e. SeeSpray, SprayWatch, TracMap etc.)
- ➔ A record of the date, time and method of notification must be kept on file

A notification agreement may be reached between the occupier of neighbouring properties and the MSO which requires that notification of every agrichemical spray is not required.

- ➔ Specific details of this agreement must be recorded in writing and signed by all parties.

Notifications must include the following:

- ➔ the address and location of proposed application;
- ➔ the date/s of proposed application;
- ➔ time/duration of spraying to take place;
- ➔ name and type of agrichemical/s to be applied;
- ➔ The application method
- ➔ name and phone number of applicator

SPRAY SIGNAGE

Growers must adhere to Regional Council Spray Signage and industry best practice, including:

- ➔ Spraying in progress signs near sensitive areas. “CAUTION- Spraying in Progress.”
- ➔ A fixed sign at the entrance of the property and at the beginning and end points of the area to be sprayed detailing:
 - ⦿ The name and type of agrichemical used
 - ⦿ The date of spray application
 - ⦿ The safe re-entry date
 - ⦿ Contact details of the spray applicator/contractor
 - ⦿ Signs must be easily read from 10m distance. Under varying conditions e.g. rain, low light
 - ⦿ Signs to be maintained or replaced when required

RESOURCES

Property Spray Plan Form