

Spray Drift Management

The Nursery and Garden Industry Australia (2013) summarises a strategy for spray drift management:

- Identify all areas around the target area to be sprayed that may be susceptible to damage from spray drift.
- Communicate with neighbours regarding proposed spray schedules and activities. Keep them informed.
- Maintain a copy of the relevant safety data sheets for all pesticides stored and used.
- Read, understand and follow the pesticide product label prior to mixing and spraying.
- Observe and record wind direction, wind speed, temperature and humidity before and during application.
- Avoid spraying when air is moving towards susceptible areas.
- Avoid spraying if the wind is light and variable in strength or direction.
- Apply water-based sprays when temperatures are the lowest in a 24-hour cycle.
- Avoid spraying water-based pesticides under conditions of high temperature and low humidity.
- Avoid spraying during highly stable conditions or when surface temperature inversion exists.
- Spray with a crosswind and progress upwind.
- Ensure spray equipment is correctly calibrated and appropriate nozzle systems are selected.