

Basic Rules for Chemical Spraying

If the chosen method is chemical spraying then the basic rules apply:

Permits

Check to see if a permit is required from the Government agency to carry out spraying or spraying near protected areas.

Observe the weather conditions

Check that rainfall is not forecasted. There is no point spraying if it is too windy as there is a likelihood of spray drift which could affect non target vegetation. If the humidity is very high it can extend the droplet life.

Area to be sprayed

Make sure that precautions are in place to prevent spray drift. Also calculate or take photos of the area to be sprayed to monitor the effectiveness of spraying chemicals.

Read the Chemical Label

Read and understand the label and booklet if one is provided with the chemical. These should be read before commencing the weed management control program. It is essential that the correct chemical is used and the one that has the least toxic effect on the environment and the person applying it.

PPE should be worn before proceeding to the next step.

The application rate must be measured and mixed correctly in a well-ventilated area. The supervisor should prepare the chemical. If a spill occurs use a 'spill kit' to clean away the chemical immediately. The chemical container should be locked away before commencing spraying activities.

Post spraying

After spraying, the equipment should be rinsed in the area designated for cleaning of chemicals, allowed to dry and then stored correctly where it belongs. The Safety Data Sheet provides details of how to dispose, clean and store of the chemical product. Also study the label for instructions.

Carry out visual observation frequently to monitor the effectiveness of the chemical application.

Recording details

A record of the application should be written in the Chemical Application form. If any incidents occurred an incident identification form should be completed as per enterprise requirements. Photographic evidence is a very good tool to use to record before and after displays.