







A GUIDE TO ESTIMATING WIND SPEEDS

FOR SPRAYING AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Description	Indications	Visible signs	Wind Speed (km/h)	Spray drift risk
Calm		Smoke rises vertically; spreads out under inversion layer. Flags hang limp.	0	High. Unpredictable vapour and mist drift.
Light air		Smoke drifts slowly. Flags just begin to move.	1-5	Moderate - Low. Inversion conditions could still be present.
Sight breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; flags stir from flagpole.	6-11	Low.
Gentle breeze/wind		Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends a light flag.	12-19	Moderate - High. Need to carefully monitor conditions.
Moderate wind		Wind raises dust and loose paper; grasses lay over and small branches are moved; flags flap.	20-29	High. Droplet drift and vapour drift are almost certain. Unsuitable for most spraying.
Fresh wind		Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters, flags ripple.	30-39	Very High. Unsuitable for spraying.
Strong wind		Large branches move; whistling heard in wires, flags beat.	40-50	Extreme. Unsuitable for spraying.

Notes: This Guide to Estimating Wind Speed is not intended as a substitute for electronic hand held weather meters, which are available from spray equipment suppliers. Wind speed should be measured at spray application height. Some product labels specify a wind speed range for spraying. Check the product label prior to spraying.

Reduce risk from spray drift

- Ensure wind direction is safe.
- Allow adequate downwind buffer zone.
- Ensure wind speed is safe.
- Lower boom height.
- Reduce travel speed.
- Increase droplet size by:
 - increasing nozzle size;
 - changing nozzles;
 - reducing pump pressure.

Disclaimer: The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any chemical products. The State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication. Published by the Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries, May 2008. © The State of Victoria, 2008.

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