

GRDC Spray Days – presentations



Emerald - November 2022



Contents

Social licence	3
<i>Paul McIntosh, Pulse Australia/WeedSmart</i>	
Inversion towers – a network of sensors to identify the presence of temperature inversions. Benefits for on-farm decision making.....	16
<i>Susan Maas, CRDC</i>	
Sensor technologies for targeted spraying – current capability and future opportunities	27
<i>Craig Baillie, USQ</i>	
Optimising glyphosate efficacy.....	40
<i>Mark Congreve, ICAN</i>	
Options to reduce spray drift risk	56
<i>David Johnson, FMC</i>	
Update on spray drift reduction technologies for grain crops.....	64
<i>Andrew Hewitt, CPAS, UQ</i>	
Trade display exhibitors	78

DISCLAIMER: *Independent Consultants Australia Network (ICAN) have prepared this publication on the basis of information available at the time of publication without any independent verification. Neither ICAN and its editors nor any contributor to this publication represent that the contents of this publication are accurate or complete; nor do we accept any omissions in the contents, however they may arise. Readers who act on the information in this publication do so at their risk. ICAN and contributors may identify particular types of products. We do not endorse or recommend the products of any manufacturer referred to. Other products may perform as well or better than those specifically referred to.*



SOCIAL LICENSE, MRL's & HERBICIDE RESIDUES

BY PAUL McINTOSH- WEEDSMART & PULSE AUSTRALIA



1

SOCIAL LICENCE and its DEFINITION



Is the level of acceptance or approval that stakeholders and communities extend to a project , site , company or industry.

Gaining social license means gaining support for the project from concerned groups or stakeholders over and above any legal requirements

Granting of social license is rooted in the beliefs, reputation and opinions held by the local population and other stakeholders in society.

2

What about E S G

Environmental, Social, & Governance

The three pillars of sustainable business

3

Environmental factors involve the protection of natural resources or Impact on the planet

Air and Water quality

Biodiversity

Deforestation

Energy Performance

Carbon Footprint

Natural Resource Depletion

Waste mgt and Pollution

4

Social

Involves anticipating every possible customer reaction to your brand and to determine who is best suited to respond , creating a map of how the interaction should unfold , deciding who is authorized to continue the relationship etc .

When executed correctly . The outcome of social governance is simple;

Customers enjoy a positive seamless brand experience

5

GOVERNANCE– Internally with ;

Compliance

Security

Control

How an organisation is governed- and transparency ?

6

All these key elements are
inter-twined and will impact
our Agricultural industry

eg in Banking

7

**Toxic nation:
Australia's pesticide
problem**
Pesticides

Anne Davies

🐦 @annefdavies

Fri 7 Oct 2022 03.30 AEDT



How big pesticide reaches into every element of rural life in Australia

Multinational chemical firms subsidise agronomists, provide scholarships, sponsor farm safety programs and even fund the pesticide regulator

- **There are real alternatives to widespread pesticide use**
- **Who tests your food for pesticides in Australia?**
- **12 pesticides banned elsewhere but still used in Australia**
- **Get our free news app, morning email briefing or daily news podcast**



8

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle Search More

Australia Coronavirus World AU politics Environment Football Indigenous Australia Immigration Media Business Science Tech

Toxic nation: Australia's pesticide problem
Food safety

The dirty dozen: 12 pesticides that are banned elsewhere but still used in Australia

Australia still uses dozens of chemicals that are banned in other countries - including the UK and US - because they are toxic to humans, animals or the environment

- Australian food is grown with dangerous chemicals banned in other countries
- Get our free news app, morning email briefing or daily news podcast

Anne Davies and Donna Lu

Tue 27 Sep 2022 03:30 AEST


[f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

Australia continues to allow the use of pesticides that have been banned by the European Union - and in some cases the United States - because they are harmful to human health or cause significant environmental damage. This includes the highly poisonous chemical paraquat, which has been linked to Parkinson's disease, and the common herbicide atrazine, which interferes with reproduction and may cause cancer.

Here are 12 of the most toxic pesticides still being used on Australian food crops and animals.

9

HERBICIDE RESIDUES IN GRAIN



APVMA Reviews

All old actives over time are being re-evaluated by APVMA

- Glyphosate has been reviewed
- 2,4-D has been reviewed
- Fipronil is current on review
- Imidacloprid is current on review
- Paraquat/Diquat is current on review

11

Bee deaths spark investigation after traces of chemical Fipronil found in hives



ABC Southern Qld / By Lucy Robinson and Belinda Sanders

Posted Thu 18 Feb 2021 at 11:10am, updated Thu 18 Feb 2021 at 4:34pm



12

HERBICIDE RESIDUES IN GRAIN



Maximum Residue Limits – (MRLs)

- Defined as the Maximum concentration of residue which is legally permitted as acceptable to be present in agricultural commodity
- Importing countries may have lower or nil MRL compared to Australian MRLs
- National Residue Surveys (NRS)
2020-21 – 5445 samples collected
Compliance rate % - 99.3 %



Wheat crop 2020 @ Bathurst

13

Weighbridge/receive numbers: _____ Silo/line number (optional): _____

Crop protection

Please outline below what pesticides were applied to the crop (from planting to harvest).

	Product name	Active ingredient/s	Formulation strength	Application rate	Date applied
Herbicide	Spinnaker 700 WDG			50 grams/Ha	24/12/2020
	Verdict 520			200 ml/Ha	25/01/2021
Insecticide	Altacor			70grams/HA	11/02/2021
	Alpha-Scud Elite			300ml/HA	11/02/2021
Fungicide	Orius 430 SC			145ml/Ha	11/02/2021
Desiccant	Round up			2L/Ha	05/03/2021
	Ally			5grams/Ha	05/03/2021

- Does the grower or staff applying pesticides on-farm hold either a current *Commercial Operator's Licence (Old)*, or completed the *National Farm Chemical User's Training Program* administered by ChemCert Australia? (Select) No Yes
- Has the crop been grown on a property with an *organochlorine status classification* (e.g. dieldrin, DDT), or a property under quarantine because of organochlorine residue? (Select) No Yes



Grower commodity declaration—mungbean and black gram page 2 of 4

Animal, industrial and municipal waste

- Has animal manure or municipal waste been applied to the land as a fertiliser or soil conditioner in the 2 years prior to, or during the growing of the crop? Or have domestic animals grazed this paddock within the last 12 months? If 'Yes', please provide details in table below. (Select) No Yes

14

Collector:

DALBY QLD 4405

Sample Date: **22 Mar 2021**
 Lab Receipt Date: **12 Apr 2021**
 Report Date: **05 May 2021**
 Ship: **DEACON**

Sample No	Product	Customer Reference No	Destination Country	Marketer	Chemicals/Contaminants	Residue mg/kg	Aust MRL mg/kg
0320400B	Mung bean	M4510	Viet Nam		fluazifop-p-butyl	0.096	0.5
					glyphosate	0.41	10
					haloxyfop	0.90	0.1*
					Remaining analytes (overleaf)	<LOR	

* Note: The residue of haloxyfop detected at 0.90mg/kg exceeds the Australian MRL of 0.1mg/kg

15

ADAMS AUSTRALIA

GRAIN SORGHUM to CHINA and GLYPHOSATE residues

Food (Alcohol) mkt – Proceeding with caution for NIL tolerance red flags warnings

Feed mkt - continuing to export to China.



Haloxyfop free Chickpeas to USA & Canada customers



Heightened awareness in weed seeds in various overseas markets.

Market	Active Ingredient	Commodity (for chickpeas)	MRL (ppm)		
Egypt	Acetamiprid	Peas (with pods)	0.6	Intruder/ Skope Insecticide	
Egypt	Acetamiprid	Peas (without pods)	0.3		
Egypt	Acetamiprid	Pulses; Peas	0.15		
India	Acetamiprid		0.01		
Turkey	Acetamiprid	Peas (with pods)	0.4		
Turkey	Acetamiprid	Peas (without pods)	0.3		
Turkey	Acetamiprid	Pulses; Peas	0.07		
United Arab Emirates	Acetamiprid	Peas (with pods)	0.6		
United Arab Emirates	Acetamiprid	Peas (without pods)	0.3		
United Arab Emirates	Acetamiprid	Pulses; Peas	0.15		
Egypt	Emamectin	Peas (with pods)	0.03		Affirm Insecticide
Egypt	Emamectin	Peas (without pods)	0.01		
Egypt	Emamectin	Pulses; Peas	0.01		
India	Emamectin		0.01		
Turkey	Emamectin	Peas (with pods)	0.01		
Turkey	Emamectin	Peas (without pods)	0.01		
Turkey	Emamectin	Pulses; Peas	0.01		
United Arab Emirates	Emamectin	Peas (with pods)	0.03		
United Arab Emirates	Emamectin	Peas (without pods)	0.01		
United Arab Emirates	Emamectin	Pulses; Peas	0.01		



Table 3b. Summer crop growth stage application windows

Crop	Crop Growth Stage
Lucerne	Apply from 2 nd trifoliate leaf onwards
Cowpea, Mung beans, Navy beans, Soybeans	Apply from 2 nd leaf to flowering
Peanuts	Apply from 5cm to pegging
Cotton	Apply from 2 nd leaf to before the onset of flowering
Sunflowers	Apply from 2 nd leaf to head initiation

19

**NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OR IN ANY MANNER CONTRARY TO THIS LABEL UNLESS
AUTHORISED UNDER APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.**



HARVESTING WITHHOLDING PERIODS

NOT REQUIRED WHEN USED AS DIRECTED FOR:

Canola, Chickpeas, Cotton, Cowpea, Faba beans, Field peas, Lentils, Linola, Linseed, Lupins, Mung beans, Navy beans, Peanuts, Soybeans, Sunflowers and Vetch

DO NOT HARVEST FOR:

Medic and Clover seed crops

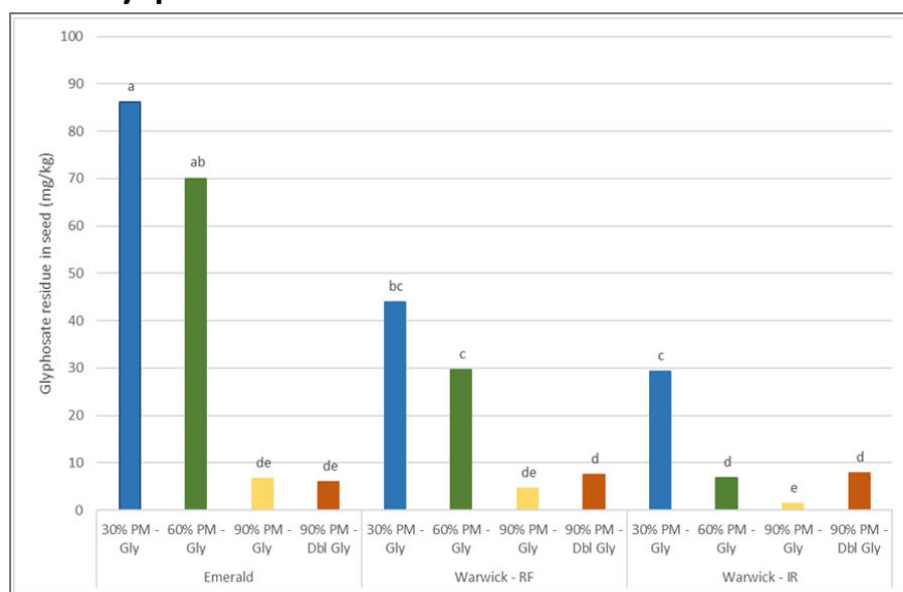
7 DAYS AFTER APPLICATION

20

TAIWAN and GLYPHOSATE

24

Glyphosate residues from 2021



- Early desiccation will increase residues
- Need to accurately assess physiological maturity
- DANGER spraying green pods

Glyphosate residue in seed @ 7 DAT at Emerald and Warwick rainfed (RF) and irrigated (IR) trials. Means with same subscript are not significantly different at the $P=0.05$ level.

25

DRIFT AND PRODUCTION SYSTEM

What's the problem?

- Movement of chemical outside farm boundaries and off intend target
- Spray Drift is a whole of community issues and everyone has a responsibility to understand their obligations in managing it



DRIFT AND PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Impacts of spray drift on cotton crop

- Grower Surveys for southern NSW

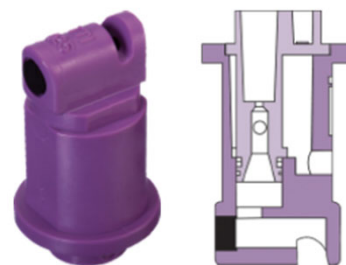
Years	% of cotton growers affected	Average % of cotton crop area impacted	Average yield cost (in bales / ha)	Average financial cost (in \$)
2018	19%	54%	0.7	\$47,938
2019	23%	14%	2	\$16,440



DRIFT AND PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

2,4-D label changes 2018

- Minimum mandatory droplet size of Very Coarse (aerial application remains at Very Coarse)
- Advisory – ground boom sprayers minimum of Extremely Coarse between 1st October and 15th April (recommended not legally required)
- Ground boom height restricted to 50cm above the target canopy/crop
- Introduction of – downwind buffer zones
- Addition of – do not apply if there are surface temperature inversions



Turbo TeeJet Induction (TTI)

28

- When we **Choose to Spray**, will determine where and how far the spray driftable fraction of our application will move
- The **Sprayer Set-up** will determine how much product will be left in the air.
- **Coarser Spray Qualities / Nozzles** will lower drift risk but can also impact efficacy
- Having a set of **Spray-Plans** for different paddock situations will enable efficient, safe and effective spraying.

PLUS - reading all the small print of our labels and even re-check with your marketers


29

TAKE HOME MESSAGES




- Social licence can't be taken for granted
- Pesticide application beyond the label can leave to a potential residues in the grain that could potentially affect Australia's Market access
- Ineffective application of pesticides may result in significant label changes through government regulation

30



Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
A Level 4, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 Australia
P PO Box 5367 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia
T +612 6166 4500
F +612 6166 4599
www.grdc.com.au

 @thegrdc

The slide features a dark green background with a large, stylized graphic of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hands are rendered in a bright blue color with a yellow outline, set against a backdrop of faint, overlapping green leaf shapes. In the bottom left corner, the organization's contact information is listed in a white, sans-serif font. Below the contact details is a small white Twitter bird icon followed by the handle '@thegrdc'.

31

Advanced Weather Sensors and Information Supporting Spray Decisions



1

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Stability
Wind
Turbulence
Dispersion

STRONGLY STABLE



Image: Graeme Tepper

2

NIGHT – COMBINED AND CONCENTRATED



Hazardous
inversions
trap
pesticides.

Laminar
winds
transport
pesticides

Laminar winds carry high concentrations

3

LABEL STATEMENTS



Nufarm Crucial Herbicide & Titan Amine 720 Herbicide

DO NOT apply if there are hazardous surface temperature inversion conditions present at the application site during the time of application.

Surface temperature inversion conditions exist most evenings one to two hours before sunset and persist until one to two hours after sunrise.

**Guesswork
is the current GoTo method
for inversion detection and label compliance**

4

RESEARCH

Detailed examination of inversion conditions



29 towers

WA, SA, NSW, QLD

37 sites

Extensive data set

Over 6 years -
every 10 minutes

Image: Frank Taylor

Research conducted by Graeme Tepper: (MRES) and Dr Warwick Grace (Grace Research Network)

5

DISCOVERY



Clear skies and calm are ideal

BUT

It can be overcast/cloudy

Winds can exceed 20kph

Calm* is rare

Winds are most often 2 to 11kph

Ultimately

laminar winds

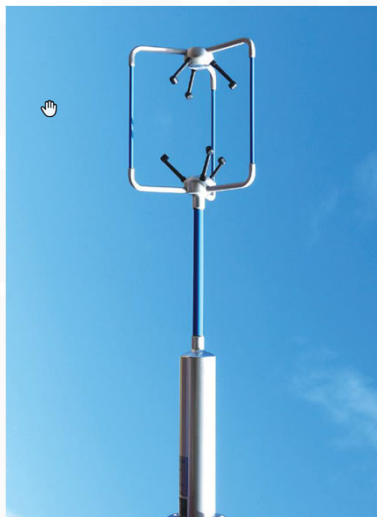
cause inversions to be hazardous

These
discoveries
challenge
traditional
beliefs

*Cup type wind
sensors often
record calm even
when winds are up
to 5 kph.

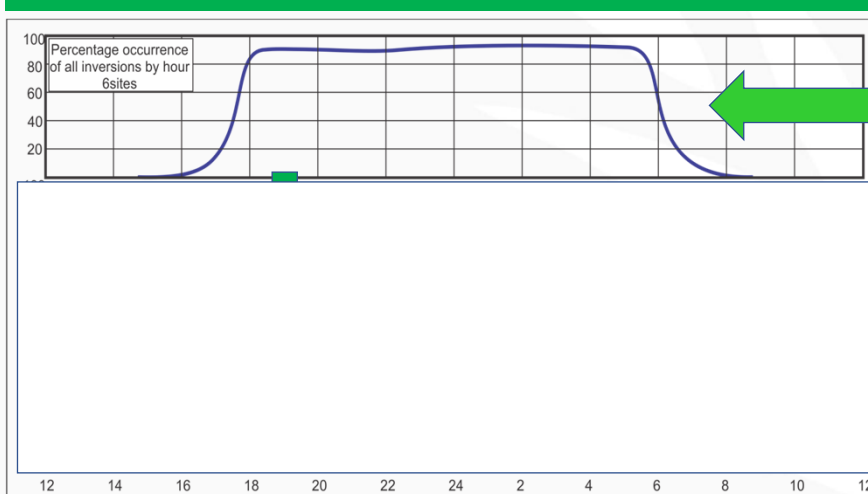
6

RECORDING METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS



7

WHEN DO INVERSIONS OCCUR?

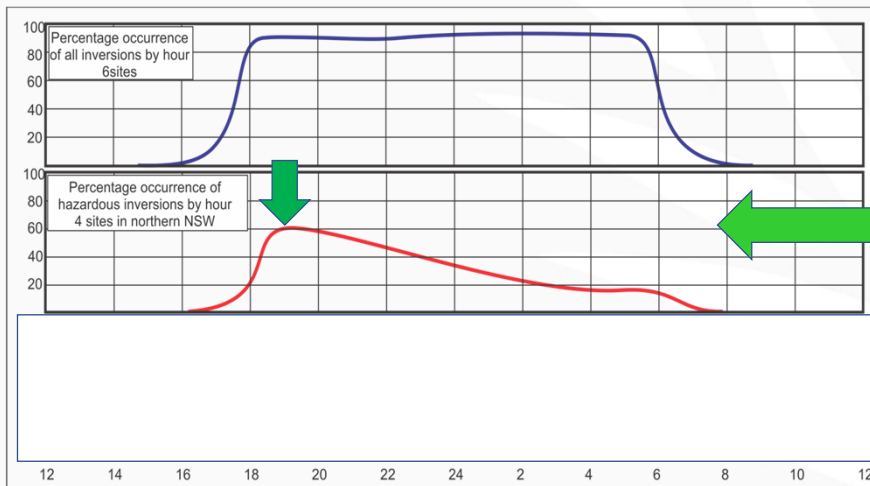


Inversions form most nights.

Some are weak, others are very hazardous

8

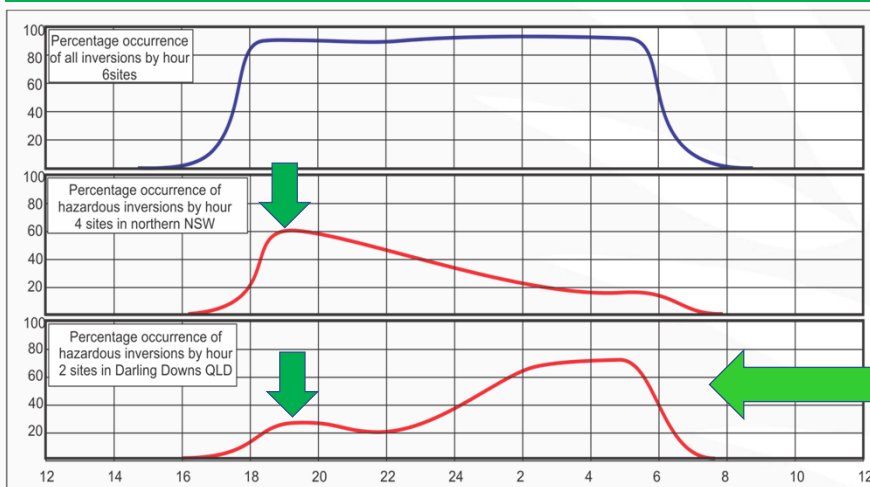
WHEN ARE INVERSIONS MOST HAZARDOUS



**NSW open plains
Early evening**

9

MOST HAZARDOUS

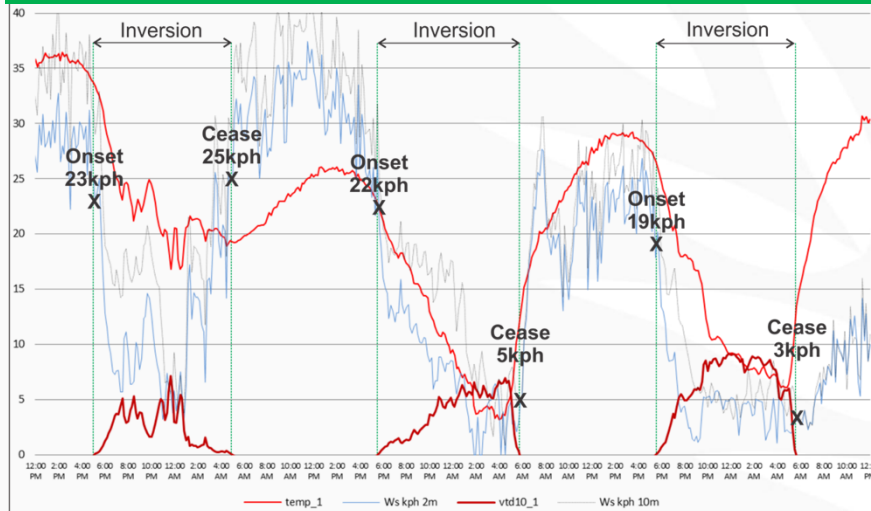


**Spray guides
need to be
formulated for
regions.**

**Darling Downs
Two peaks
Early evening
And 2 to 5am**

10

EXAMPLE: INVERSION WINDS



Rarely Calm

**2m winds
average
2 to 12kph**

**10m winds
average
2 to 17kph**

INVERSION CLUES HELPFUL BUT UNRELIABLE

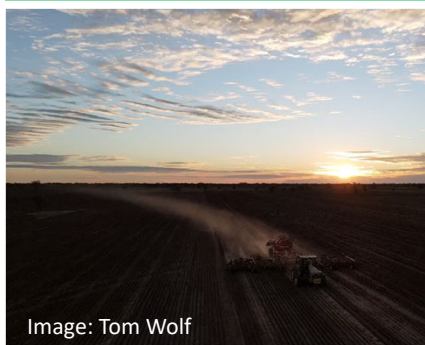


Image: Tom Wolf



Image: Nicola Cottee

FACT
Clues
take time to
develop
or
may not
occur

Dust, fog, dew, clarity of noise, high odour, do not necessarily equate to the most hazardous conditions

KNOWING IF AN INVERSION EXISTS IS NOT ENOUGH



We need to know when laminar winds exist

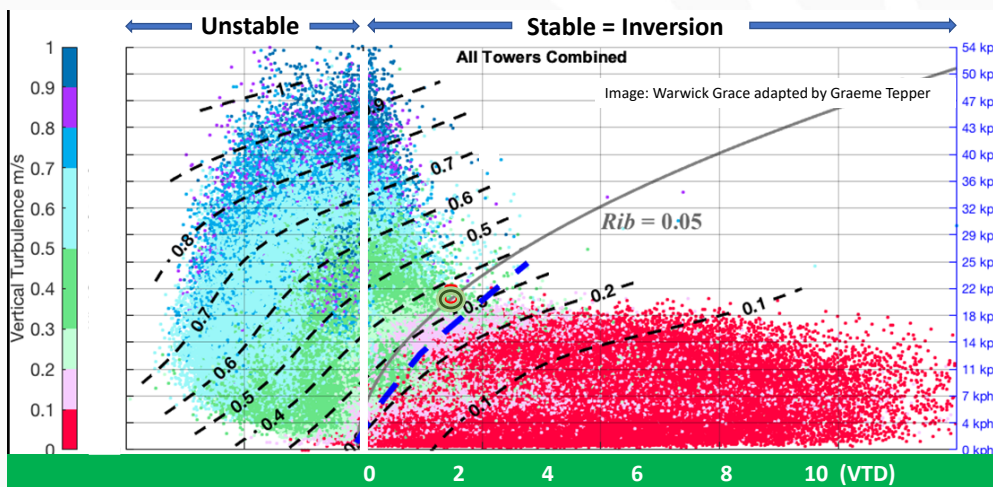
Laminar winds transport high concentrations off site

8 December 2022

Presentation by Graeme Tepper

13

VERTICAL TURBULENCE DATA



Red/pink dots indicate when laminar winds can exist.

14

LAMINAR WINDS ARE HAZARDOUS

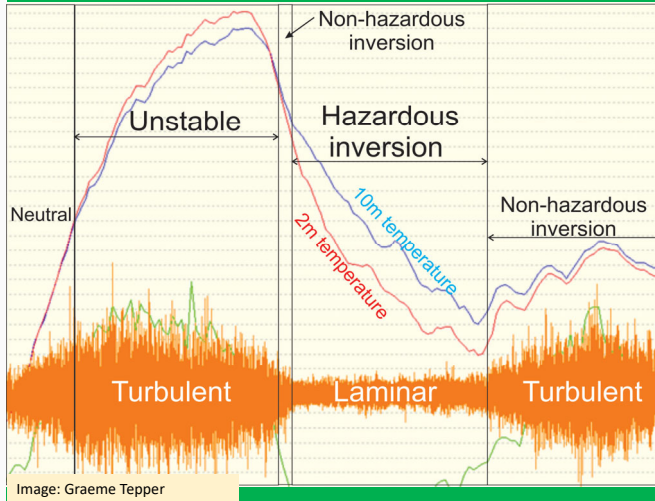
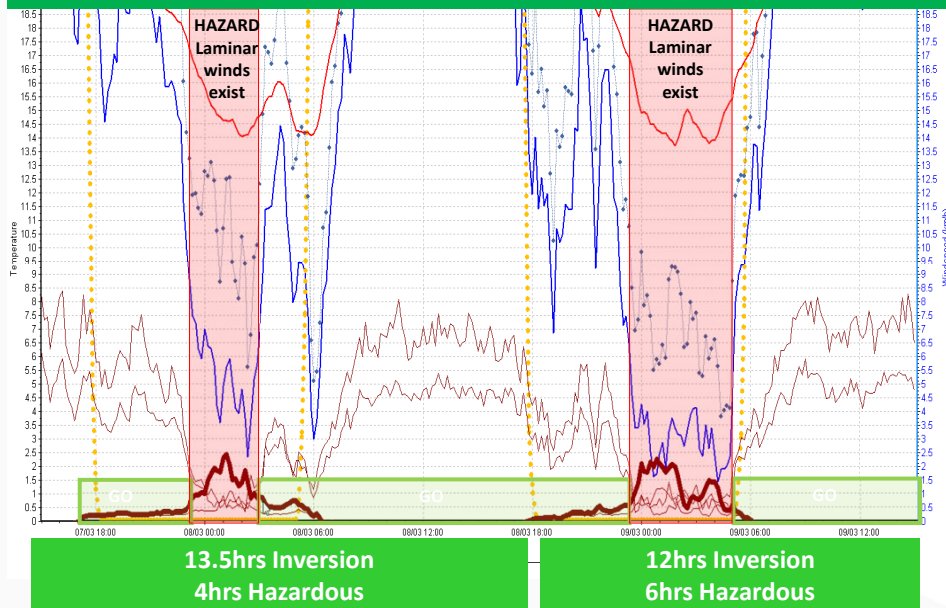


Image: Graeme Tepper

Laminar winds can carry concentrated drift long distances

Note the sharp separation between laminar and turbulent conditions

HOW MANY SPRAY HOURS GAINED?



In these cases adopting the SDWS increase spray hours by 9.5 & 6 hours

SPRAY DRIFT WARNING SYSTEM



System: Goanna Ag is establishing 100 Profiling Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS) across the grain and cotton regions of NSW and southern and central QLD.

Delivers to Growers:

1. Accurate and real time data updated every 10 minutes.
2. 2 hour 'Nowcasting'
3. 24-hour forecasts of spray conditions in 2-hour segments updated every 10 minutes.
4. Plus; wind, temperature, delta T and rainfall

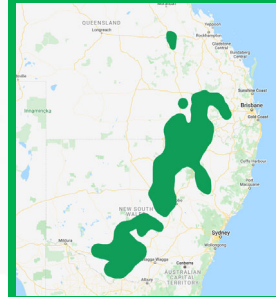


Image: Goanna Ag

The research for the system was made possible by the significant contributions of growers and the support of GRDC, CRDC, AND DPIRD.

17

WAND WEATHER AND NETWORKED DATA

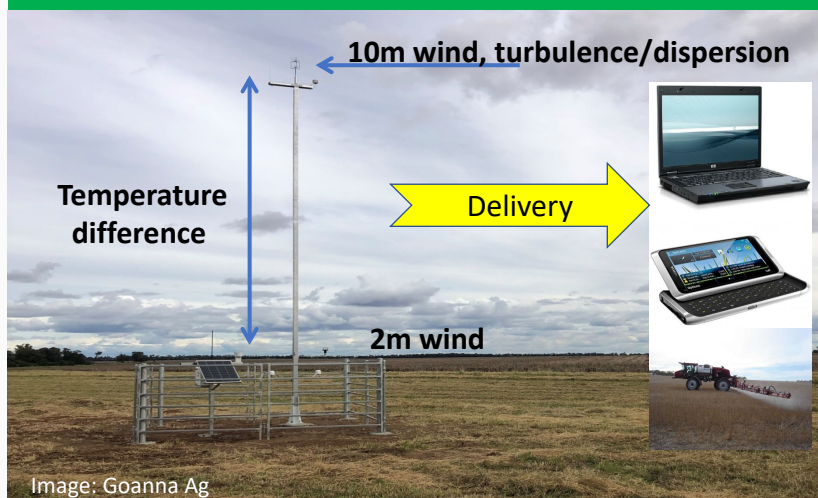


Image: Goanna Ag

WAND
provides
information
↓
Growers make
informed
decisions

18

Emerald	
As of 13/10/2022, 16:10:00	
Hazardous Inversion	Absent
Inversion	-1.0 °C
Wind Speed (2m)	14 km/h NE
Wind Speed (10m)	21 km/h NE
Delta T	9.4 °C
Temperature	30 °C
Solar Radiation	442 W/m2
Rainfall from 9am	0 mm
Rainfall 24 hrs to 9 am	0 mm

Gindie	
As of 01/10/2022, 05:50:00	
Hazardous Inversion	Present
Inversion	2.9 °C
Wind Speed (2m)	4 km/h WNW
Wind Speed (10m)	3 km/h SSW
Delta T	1.3 °C
Temperature	13 °C
Solar Radiation	0 W/m2
Rainfall from 9am	0 mm
Rainfall 24 hrs to 9 am	0 mm

www.wand.com.au

SYSTEM BENEFITS SUPPORTS IMPROVED ON-FARM PRACTICES

- Identifies the most hazardous spray conditions
- Reveals more hours to spray at night
- Maximizes operator and machine productivity by revealing optimal hours to spray
- Eliminates guesswork
- Reduces the risk of spray drift which is crucial for social, environmental and financial reasons for agriculture and the wider community

Experienced operators combine wisdom with scientific data to make the best farm decisions

www.wand.com.au

HAZARDOUS INVERSION FACT SHEET

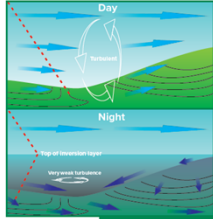


Hazardous surface temperature inversion

Pesticide applications during hazardous surface temperature inversions can lead to spray drift causing severe damage up to several kilometres off target. Current regulations prohibit spraying of agricultural chemicals when hazardous temperature inversions exist.

KEY POINTS

- Spray applied at dawn, dusk and during the night is likely to be affected by surface temperature inversions.
- During hazardous inversions, air movement is much less turbulent than during the day.
- Wind turbulence leads to the accumulation of drift close to the surface.
- Airborne droplets can remain concentrated in the inversion layer for long periods of time.
- The duration and distance airborne droplets will move within a hazardous inversion is unpredictable and will vary depending on the surrounding landscape.



During a hazardous inversion, very weak turbulence supports the transport of drift over long distances and widespread deposition at high concentrations. When a hazardous inversion has established, it acts like a barrier, isolating the inversion layer from the normal weather situation, especially the normal wind speed and direction (Figure 1).

When application occurs in an area not covered by recognised inversion monitoring weather stations, all the surface temperature inversion conditions are regarded as hazardous.

Wind effects
In the day and some of hazardous inversions, drift can be reduced in tandem with the grain strongly over-tilts, create annual obstacles, the parallel to constant and generally flow towards low-lying areas where they

© 2022 GRDC. All Rights Reserved. GRDC 2022. 190 New South Wales Program ACT 2022. T +61 2 6166 4500 F +61 2 6166 4599 E grdc@grdc.com.au

Spray drift is a significant issue for agriculture.
This investment represents a vital cross industry collaboration to improve spray outcomes.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
A Level 14, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 Australia
P PO Box 5367 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia
T +61 2 6166 4500
F +61 2 6166 4599
www.grdc.com.au

@thegrdc



SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES FOR TARGETED SPRAYING
CURRENT CAPABILITY AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Craig Baillie and Derek Long (University of Southern Queensland)



1

OVERVIEW



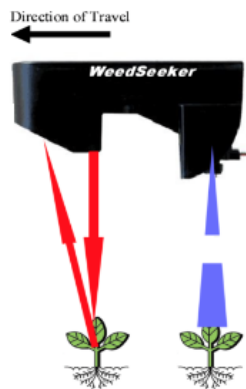
Technologies: Evolution of weed sensing over the past 20 years.
Developments: Where are we now and what have we learned?
Opportunities: What is in the future for this technology?



2

OPTICAL SENSING 1990s/2000s

Reflectance-based sensing



Research in the 80s and 90s yielded reflectance or fluorescence sensors (WeedSeeker™ and WEED-IT™).

Reflectance-based sensing makes decisions on a single data point – binary decision (plant or not plant).

Source: [Crop Optics Australia](http://CropOpticsAustralia.com)

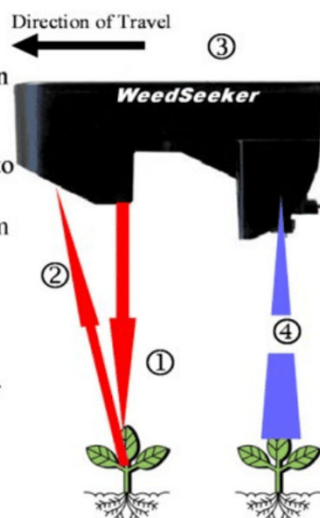
Refinements have improved products over time (self calibrating ?)

3

How a *WeedSeeker*® sensor works

1. “Light emitting diodes” (LEDs) produce a combination of invisible infrared and visible red light which is projected onto the target approximately 750 mm below the sensor.

2. The light reflected from the target is captured by a detector at the front of the sensor.



3. Sophisticated electronic circuits inside the sensor analyze the reflected light and determine when it matches the light reflected by green plants.

4. When green plant's reflectance is identified, the sensor waits until the plant is under the spray nozzle and then triggers a fast-fire solenoid valve which sprays the plant.

4

CAMERA SYSTEMS MACHINE VISION – 2000s

Research – Cameras with machine vision



Excess green segmentation. Source: [Meyer & Neto \(2008\)](#)

Reflectance-based detection = single data point

Pattern-based detection = multiple data points

The patterns are defined by the developer through hand-crafting algorithms.

5

CAMERA SYSTEMS MACHINE VISION – 2010s

Emerging Products: Cameras with machine vision (green-on-brown)



IC-Weeder. Source: [Sutton Ag](#)



See & Spray Select. Source: [John Deere](#)

- Colour-based detection of plant matter is effective against soil backgrounds.
- While adapting the sensing technologies, companies focused on optimal nozzle response to weed detection.

6

JOHN DEERE SEE & SPRAY SELECT



- Green from brown site-specific weed control solution
- Engineered for high-speed performance on a free standing boom.
- USQ licensed several novel algorithms contributed to development of See & Spray Select.



JOHN DEERE

See & Spray Select. Source: [John Deere](#)

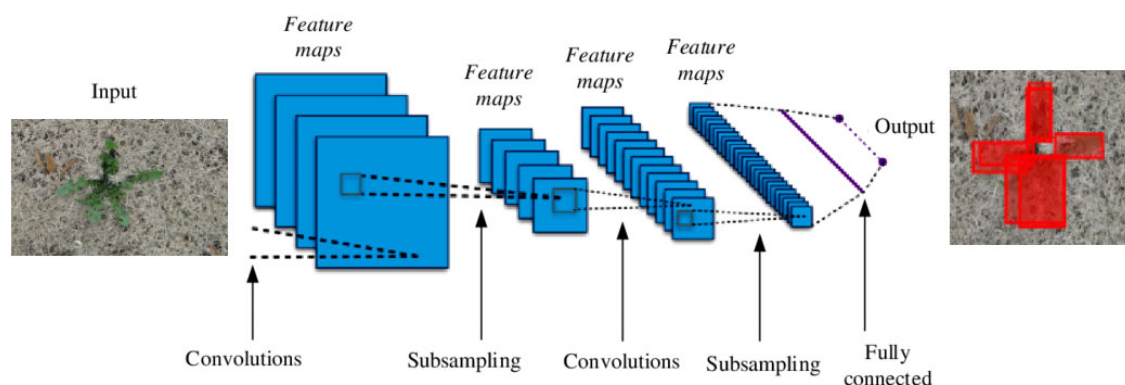
7

CAMERA SYSTEMS AI AND DEEP LEARNING – 2010s



Research – Cameras with deep learning

In deep learning, the developer no longer specifies the pattern for the target weeds. The computer finds the patterns on its own through iterative learning.

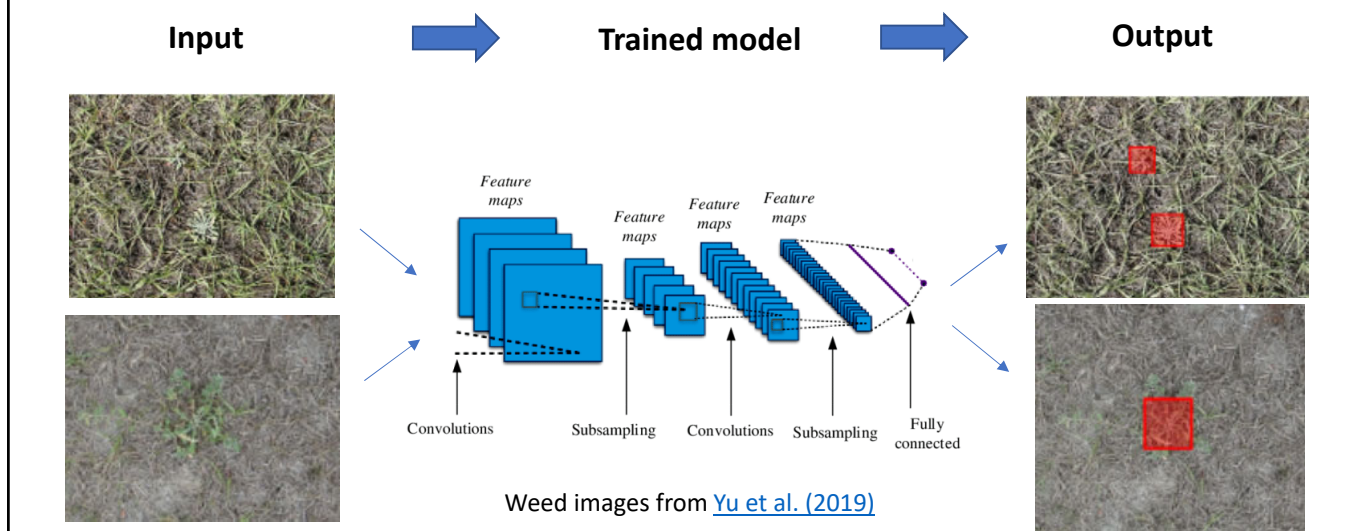


Adapted from [Kaymak & Uçar \(2018\)](#)

8

CAMERA SYSTEMS AI AND DEEP LEARNING – 2010s

Research – Cameras with deep learning



9

DEVELOPMENTS – NEW KNOWLEDGE

Machine vision

vs

Deep learning

- + Useful for prototyping
- + Appropriate in simple environments
- + Can be used to augment DL
- Solutions are often vastly different per application
- Not suitable for high complexity tasks

- + Required for high complexity tasks
- + No extra processing for detecting multiple classes of object
- Can only recognise what it has previously seen
- Limited scope of operations (object detection, classification)

10

CAMERA SYSTEMS AI / DEEP LEARNING – 2020s

Emerging Products:

Cameras with deep learning (green-on-green)

Companies and universities are building datasets for Australian crops/weeds.

Sensor configuration will be similar to green-on-brown camera products.

Early products are available with technology to mature over the 2020s.



Source: John Deere & [Blue River Technology](#)

11

GROUND VS AIR

See and Spray later.

- Emergence of camera systems for drones (vs boom).
- Fields surveyed via a drone 200 Ha / hr
- Images and GPS data is post processed to geo locate and map weeds.
- Weeds detected 4cm in dia. (within 5cm).
- Shape files uploaded to GPS spray controller
- Spot applications by section or nozzle control.

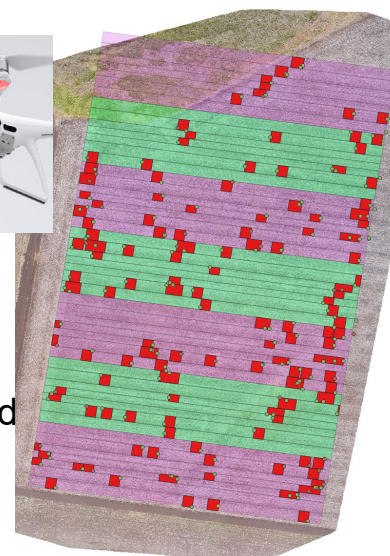


12

GROUND VS AIR

See and Spray later.

- Techniques include:
 - green from brown and
 - green from green (inter row)
- Forward planning to:
 - establish savings
 - prepare the right amount of herbicide.
 - consider high cost formulations
- Greater preparedness and lead time is required
 - cost is prohibitive as a service / DIY (?)



13

SPRAY APPLICATION SYSTEMS

Dual Lines and Systems – informed by camera based systems

- Elimination of tanks mixes
 - different chemistry depending on weeds.
- Apply a blanket spray and then a higher spot spray rate for larger weeds.
- Blanket spray of fungicides or liquid fertiliser and spot spray weeds
- Higher cost herbicide options at reduced cost due to reduced area



14

ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROLS

Laser systems based on camera systems

- Emergence of alternative weed control techniques
- High energy and slow - aligned with field based robotics.
 - 2 acres/hr @ 1 MPH
- Still largely pre commercial (?)



PERFORMANCE	TECHNOLOGY	PHYSICAL SPECS
KILLS UP TO 200,000 WEEDS/HOUR SUB-MILLIMETER ACCURACY KILLS UP TO 99 PERCENT OF WEEDS COVERS 2 ACRES/HR AT 1MPH INCREASES CROP YIELD, QUALITY, AND CONSISTENCY WORKS DAY OR NIGHT IN ALL CONDITIONS	30X 150W CO ₂ 10 6µm LASERS WITH TRACKING CAMERAS SIX LED BEDTOP LIGHTING BARS & 12X HI-RES PREDICT CAMERAS AI/ML DYNAMIC DEEP LEARNING MODELS PRECISION COMPUTER VISION SOFTWARE ISOBUS TOUCHSCREEN DISPLAY (TIM OPTIMIZATION IN 2023)	LIFTABLE WEEDING IMPLEMENT WITH 20-FT. COVERAGE WIDTH PULLS BEHIND ROW TRACTORS WITH CATS 3-POINT HITCH 90-84" ADJUSTABLE ROW SPACING PTO OR GENERATOR POWER SUPPLY OVERALL DIMENSIONS 240"W X 117"L X 106"H



LASERWEEDER

COST-EFFECTIVE, ORGANIC WEED CONTROL FOR LARGE-SCALE SPECIALTY ROW CROPS

THE FUTURE OF WEED CONTROL

WHAT IS LASERWEEDING?
PRECISION WEED CONTROL FOR LARGE-SCALE SPECIALTY CROPS

15

DEVELOPMENTS – VISION SYSTEM AIDS

Vision systems are made more reliable by adding constraints to reduce variability.

Hoods (controlled lighting)



Deep learning spot sprayer systems. Source: [Bilberry GRDC Update](#)

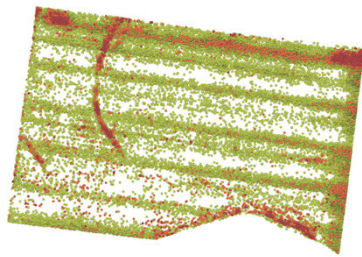
As the technologies mature, the constraints can sometimes be removed.


16

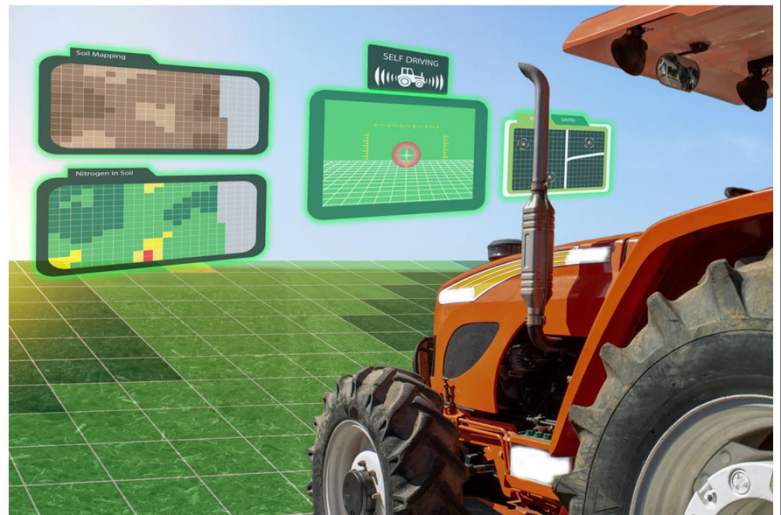
DEVELOPMENTS – OTHER APPLICATIONS



Harvester fill optimisation. Source: [CLAAS](#)



High resolution drone mapping.  UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND



Tractor automation. Source: [Here360](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- Pest management
- Crop scanning
- Disease detection
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping

OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- **Pest management**
- Crop scanning
- Disease detection
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping



OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- Pest management
- **Crop scanning**
- Disease detection
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping

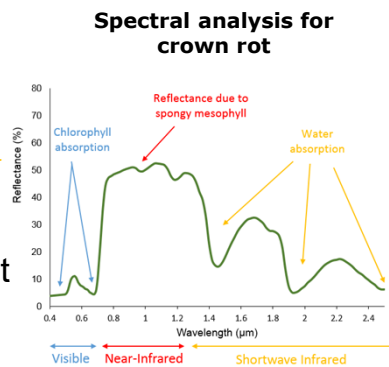


OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

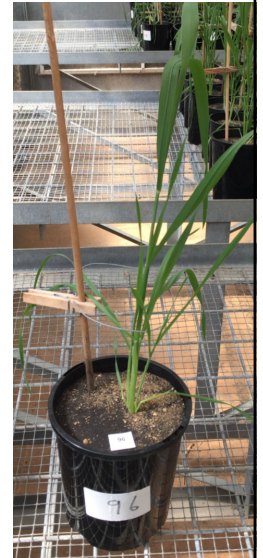
- Pest management
- Crop scanning
- **Disease detection**
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping



Infected wheat



Nil



OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- Pest management
- Crop scanning
- Disease detection
- **Yield Prediction**
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping

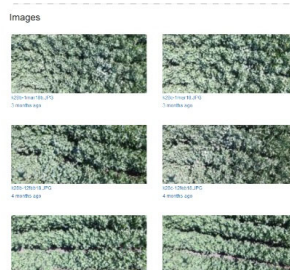


Image and model analysis



Image collection



OPPORTUNITIES

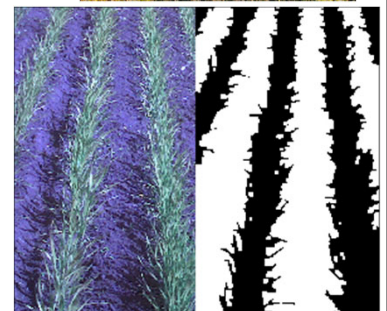
Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- Pest management
- Crop scanning
- Disease detection
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management →
- Phenotyping

Machine vision with low-cost cameras has been developed to relate optimal nitrogen rate to N-sensitive colour indices in paddock.

- Calibrated with in-field R-rich strip
- Preliminary results for optimal N-rate measured at $R^2=0.81$, RMSE=10.8 kg N/ha



OPPORTUNITIES

Machine vision and deep learning models are simultaneously being adapted for a range of applications throughout the farming system,

Including:

- Pest management
- Crop scanning
- Disease detection
- Yield Prediction
- Nitrogen management
- Phenotyping →

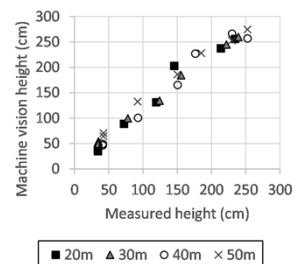
Camera towers (5m and 1m)



Image analysis for flower detection



Plant height detection by machine vision



REFLECTIONS



1. Expect to see green-on-green for all major crop types and weeds as the technology matures over the decade.
2. Software and hardware are developing rapidly, and the scope of possibilities will change in years, not decades.
3. Much of the next generation of products will be demand driven.
 - This means that you have the power to shape future technologies.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
A Level 4, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 Australia
P PO Box 5367 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia
T +612 6166 4500
F +612 6166 4599
www.grdc.com.au

 @thegrdc



OPTIMISING GLYPHOSATE EFFICACY

MARK CONGREVE (ICAN)



1



Glyphosate resistance

2

Herbicide resistance

2021/2022 resistance survey – Central Queensland populations (QDAF unpublished)

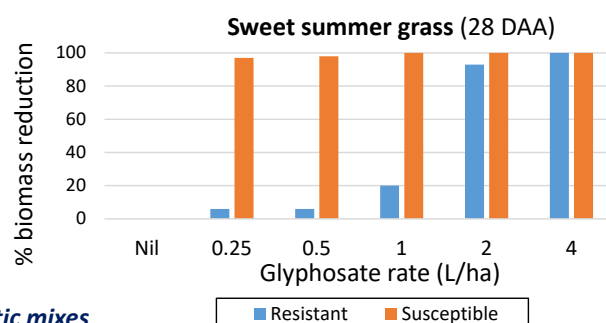
	No. populations screened	% Glyphosate resistance
Feathertop Rhodes grass	35	100
Sweet summer grass	26	81
Barnyard grass	2	100

Initially glyphosate target site resistance is often 'weak'

May still give control if rate is high and no mitigating factors or allow for a successful double knock

Dealing with 'weak' resistance

**Robust rate + Optimise application + Avoid antagonistic mixes
Double knock every application**



Cook et. al. (NSW DPI) (2014)

3

FTR – many populations now past 'weak' resistance?

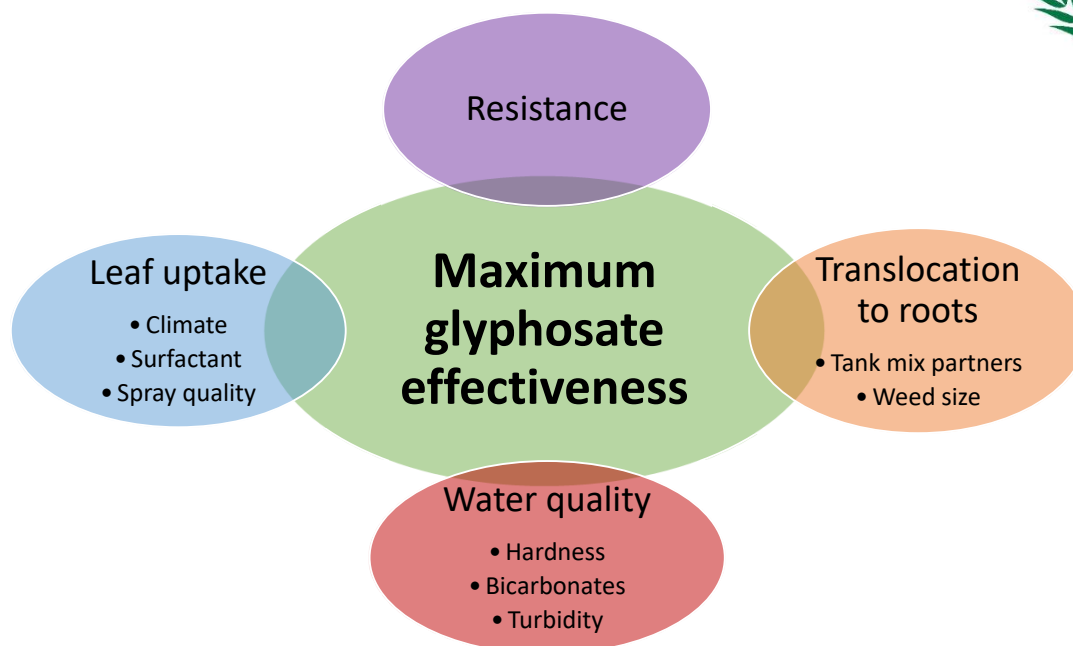
10 southern Qld feathertop Rhodes grass populations collected March / April 2017

570 g/L glyphosate applied to 4-5 leaf FTR under glasshouse conditions

- All had > 80% biomass reduction at rates above 2 L/ha of 570 g/L glyphosate
- Rate to achieve 100% control
 - < 1L/ha 1 'susceptible' (Chinchilla)
 - 4L/ha 1 (St. George)
 - 8 L/ha 1 (Dalby) **'Might' get control at optical sprayer rates**
 - 16 L/ha 7 (St. George x 3, Cecil Plains x 3, Dalby, Gatton)

Desai, Thompson & Chauhan (2020) Target-Site Resistance to glyphosate in *Chloris Virgata* biotypes and alternative herbicide options for its control. 570g/L glyphosate applied under optimal conditions.

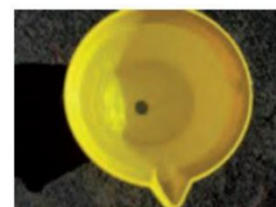
4



Getting more glyphosate into the weed

Glyphosate binds tightly to dirt / OM

- Spray water needs to be clean
- Clay based partner herbicides
 - Especially those applied at high rates
- Excessive dust



7

Water quality

pH

- 5 to 8.5 ok for most spraying
- If pH is > 8.5 then water will have other problems. Address these.



8

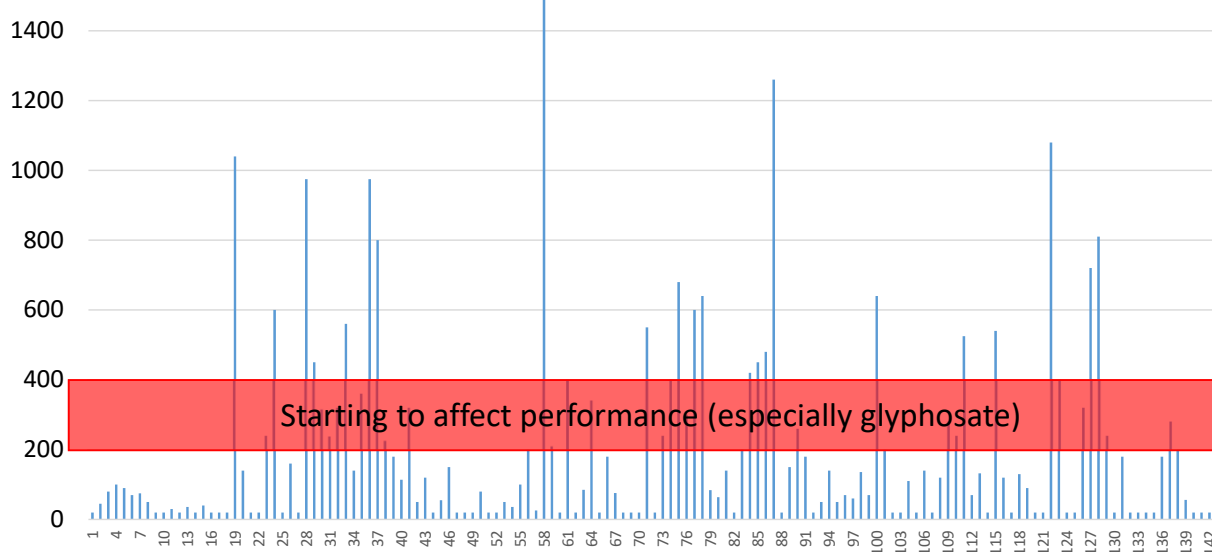
Water quality

Total hardness (esp calcium for glyphosate)

Soft	Intermediate	Hard
< 200 ppm (mg/L)	200 – 400 ppm	> 400 ppm

9

Hardness (ppm) nth NSW/ sth QLD cropping areas 2018-2019 (Data courtesy of Nufarm)



10

Water quality

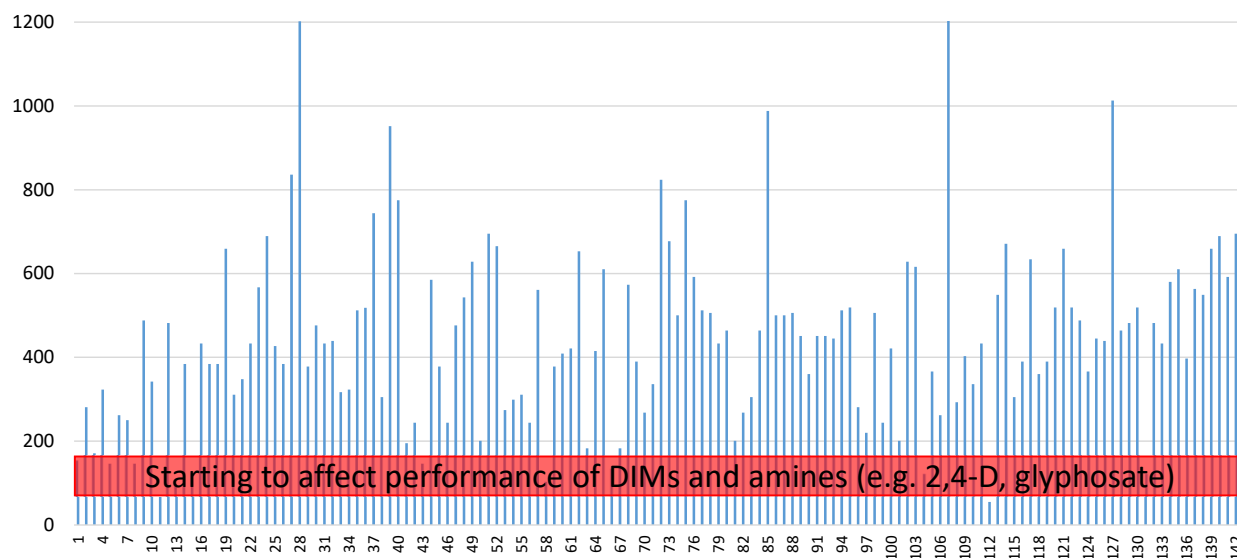
Total alkalinity (bicarbonates)

- Dims (clethodim) & amine formulations (2,4-D, glyphosate)

Good	Intermediate	Poor
< 75 ppm (mg/L)	75 – 150 ppm	> 150 ppm

11

Bicarbonates (ppm) nth NSW/ sth QLD cropping areas 2018-2019 (Data courtesy of Nufarm)

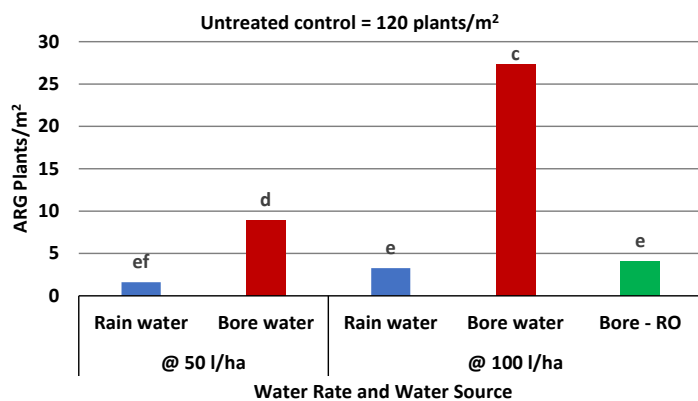


12

Water quality / Spray Volume

Sprayed Mid-April

12°C, 62% RH, Wind 3-6 kph, AIXR015 @ 3 bar (C)



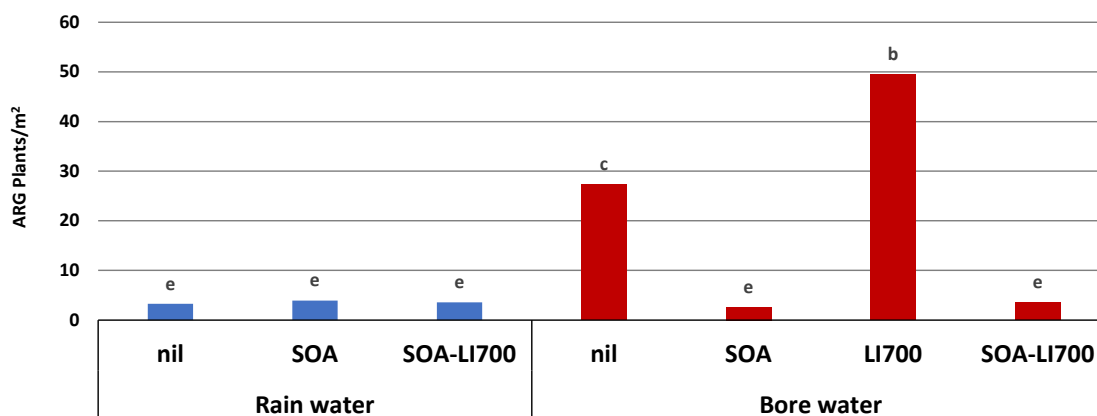
Roundup Ultramax	Resistance	
0.5 L/ha	80%	RR
0.95 L/ha	10%	R
1.5 L/ha	0%	S

Water quality	Test	Optimum
pH	8.0	5.0-8.6
Chloride	910	< 350
Sodium	410	< 70
Total alkalinity	480	< 75
Total hardness	1000	< 200

Grain Orana Alliance Narromine, NSW

13

Water conditioning



Grain Orana Alliance Narromine, NSW

14

Ammonium sulphate (AMS)

Glyphosate's favourite 'wing man'

- 'Fixes' hard water
- Partially fixes high bicarbonates
- Helps with tank mix compatibility
- Assists cell membrane transfer



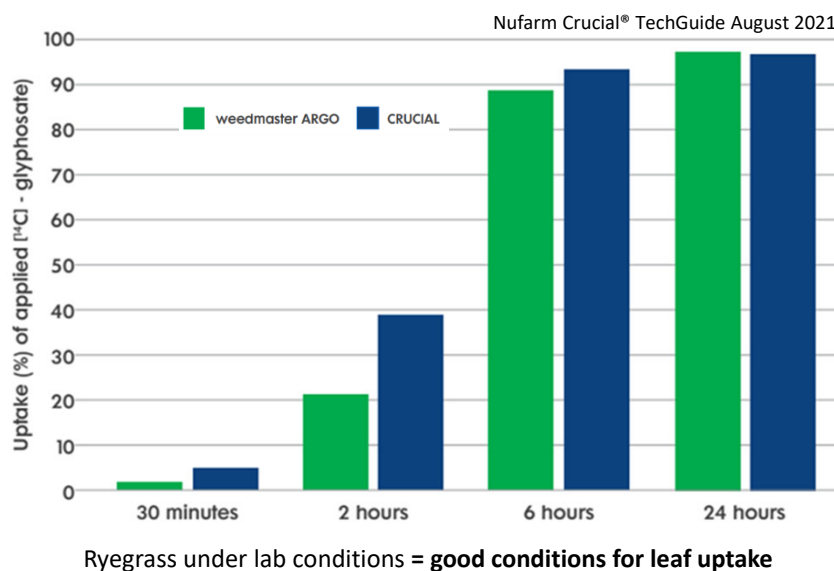
But needs time

- Fully dissolve in spray tank
 - If impatient – use a liquid formation
- Further 5-10 minutes under agitation

Kg ammonium sulphate /100 L = (0.001 x Ca (ppm)) + (0.0006 x Na) + (0.0002 x K) + (0.0017 x Mg)

Leaf uptake

Glyphosate is slow to enter the leaf



Glyphosate (hydrophilic = water loving) is very slow to penetrate waxy cuticle

17

Summer applications

Weeds adapted for hot / low humidity conditions (control transpiration losses)

- Leaf hairs (trichomes)
- More cuticle waxes
 - Harder for droplet deposition
 - Reduced penetration (for water-loving herbicides)



18

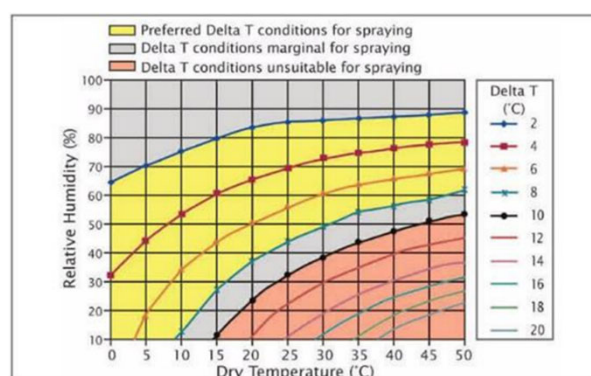
Droplet survival in summer

Delta T at & post application

- Evaporation from nozzle to leaf surface (keep boom height low)
- Leaf cuticle receptiveness for uptake
- Time on leaf surface before glyphosate crystallisation

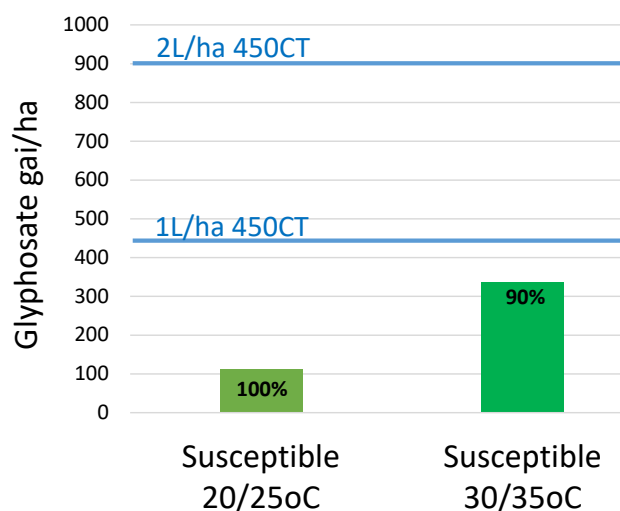
Rule of thumb for maximum glyphosate uptake
 Delta T of 4 to 6 for 4 to 6 hours after application

If air temp is > 30°C, require RH > 60%
 Glufosinate (Basta) is even more sensitive to this



19

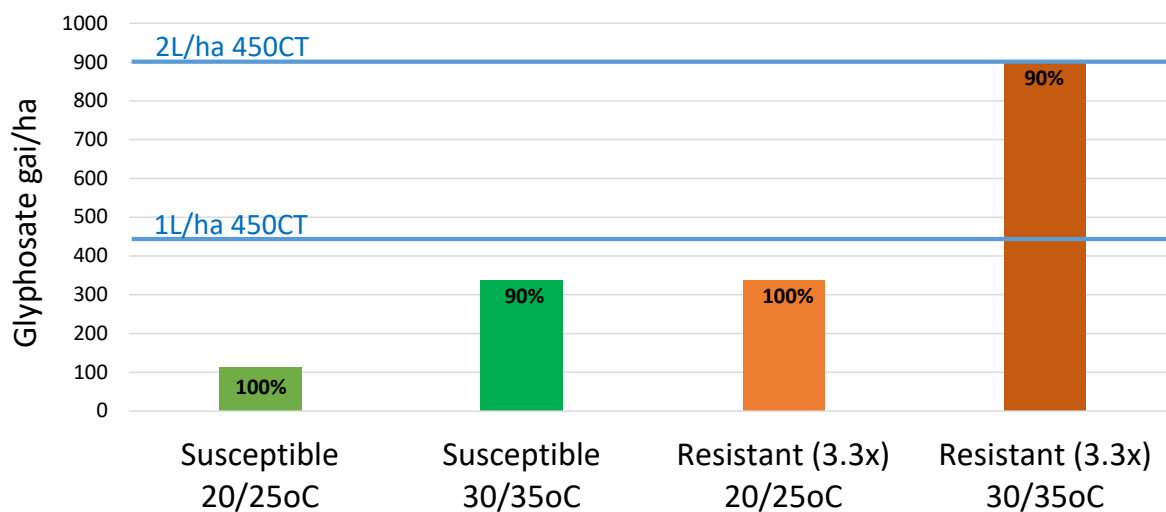
Barnyard grass (3-4 leaf)



Adapted from Target-site EPSPS Pro-106 mutations: sufficient to endow glyphosate resistance in polyploid *Echinochloa colona*? (Han, Yu, Widderick, & Powles. 2015)

20

Barnyard grass (3-4 leaf)



Adapted from Target-site EPSPS Pro-106 mutations: sufficient to endow glyphosate resistance in polyploid *Echinochloa colona*? (Han, Yu, Widderick, & Powles. 2015)

21

Spray quality & concentration

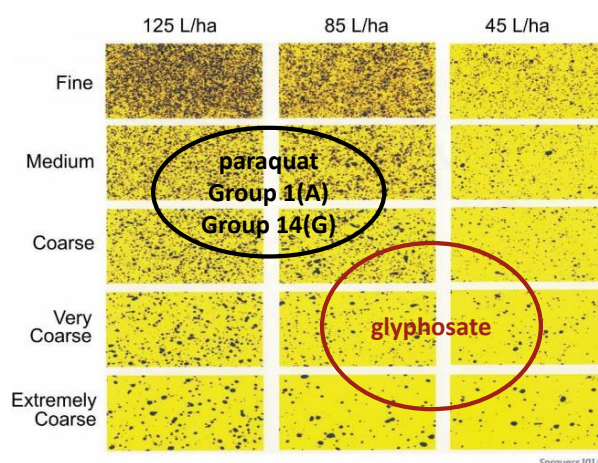
Large droplet (VC+)

- Increases droplet survival
- Reduces off-target losses (drift)

High concentration gradient (robust rate + low carrier volume)

- Assists cuticle uptake

BUT



Sprayers 101 €

22

Small, upright grass weeds

Difficult to contact

- Very large droplets may miss or bounce off

Increase number of droplets (water rate) if using large droplets on small weeds



23

VC or larger

- **ALL 2,4-D mixes**
- Drift reduction
- Required by some labels
- Summer applications
- 'Easy' surfaces for droplet to stick
- High stubble environment

Increase water rate (80-100L/ha)
for v. small upright targets

Medium - Coarse

- Group 14(G) mixes
- Group 1(A) mixes
- Hard to wet surfaces
 - Hairy
 - Small, upright grasses

Don't use

- In summer / high DT situations
- High stubble loads
- Drift sensitive situations

24

Adjuvants for glyphosate

- **Follow label advice**
 - **When to add additional adjuvant**
 - **What type to use**
- Non-ionic surfactants are not all the same
- 'Oil' can antagonise glyphosate on summer grasses

In-built surfactant varies with different salts, loading and brands

Not just selected for efficacy

- Cost
- Loading
- Aquatic uses
- Eye / skin irritation
- Smell
- Evaporation rate
- Dilution (e.g. broadacre v home garden)
- Viscosity (summer or winter use?)
- Patent

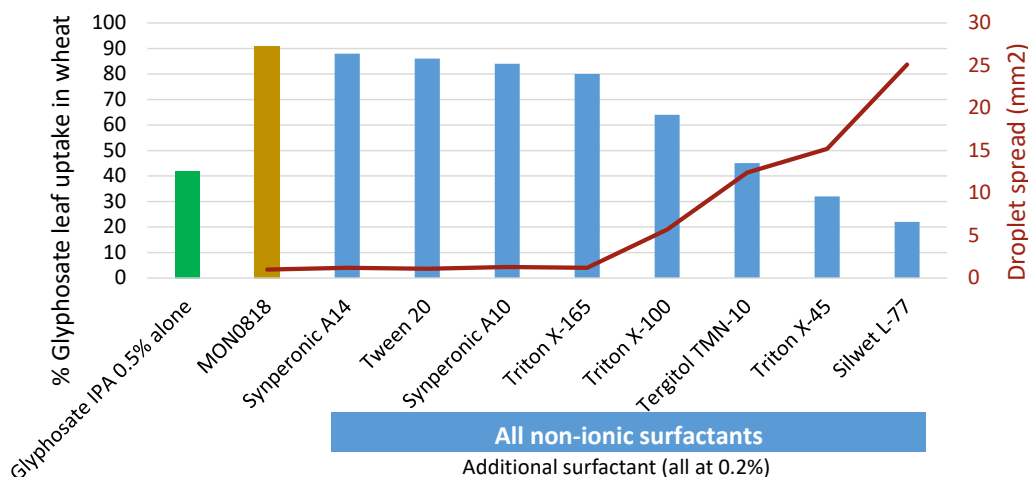
In-built surfactant load

Target active load of around 150-200 gai/100L (**0.15 to 0.2 %**) for surfactants

Glyphosate 450 CT containing		Spray volume				
		50 L/ha	75 L/ha	100 L/ha	150 L/ha	200 L/ha
144g/L polyethanoxy (15) tallow amine surfactant	0.5L/ha	0.14	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.04
	1 L/ha	0.29	0.19	0.14	0.10	0.07
	2L/ha	0.58	0.38	0.29	0.19	0.14

Inadequate	Marginal	Optimal	Excess
------------	----------	---------	--------

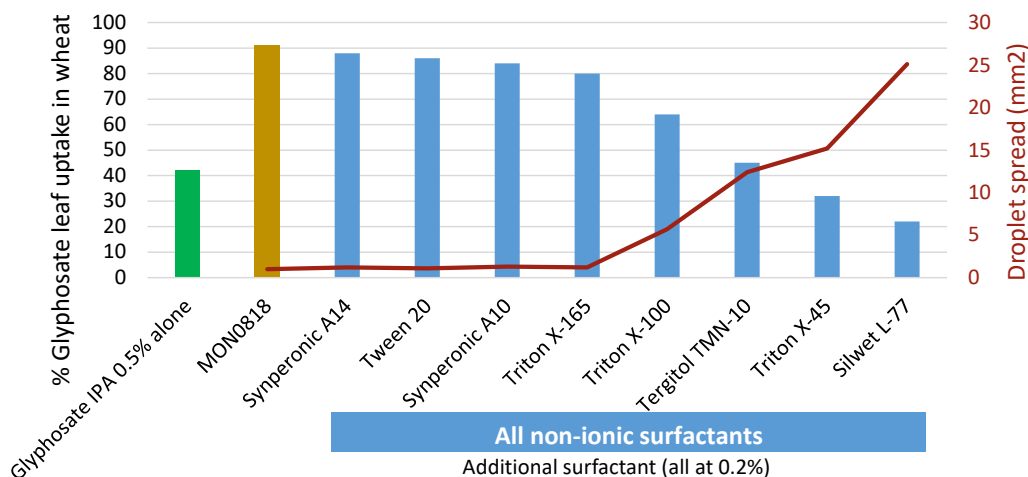
Surfactant type



Increased droplet spread (reduced surface tension) will also increase 'fines' / drift potential

Plants grown at 20/25°C & 70% RH
Adapted from Liu, Z.Q. (2003) Characterization of glyphosate uptake into grass species.

tallowamine e.g. Glysowet	Wetter TX type	Li700 Type	BS1000 type	silicon type e.g. Pulse
------------------------------	-------------------	---------------	----------------	-------------------------------



Increased droplet spread (reduced surface tension) will also increase 'fines' / drift potential

Plants grown at 20/25°C & 70% RH
Adapted from Liu, Z.Q. (2003) Characterization of glyphosate uptake into grass species.

Translocation within the plant

29

Translocation

Glyphosate requires 2-3 days to fully translocate

Reduced glyphosate translocation

- Weeds are stressed (e.g. very dry, waterlogged)
 - Tank mix partners
 - Affecting plant hormones e.g. Group 4(I)
 - Fast acting mix partners that destroy vascular bundle e.g. paraquat, glufosinate, Group 14(G)
 - Faster they work (higher rates, higher light intensity) the more glyphosate translocation is reduced
- 'Fast brownout' is NOT a desired feature for glyphosate mixes**

Antagonism is more noticeable:

- Glyphosate resistance
- Higher rates of tank mix partner
- Summer conditions
- Resistant populations

30

Glyphosate antagonism

- Most broadleaf partners antagonise grass control
 - More complex the tank mix = more glyphosate needed to counter antagonism
- Glyphosate susceptible grasses
 - If mixing glyphosate + 2,4-D keep ratio at least 3:1



Roundup® UltraMax 1.3L/ha

Roundup® UltraMax 1.3L/ha
plus 2,4-D 1L/ha

B. Chauhan. QAAFI, Gatton 2021

32

Summary

Best chance of achieving control for summer applications

- ✓ Mild / warm (not hot & dry) – Delta T in range 3-6 following application
- ✓ Large (VC) droplets
- ✓ Minimum water rate (that still achieves coverage)
- ✓ Small weeds
- ✓ No rain for >6 hours
- ✓ Robust application rates
- ✓ AMS
- ✓ Good water quality
- ✓ Quality formulation (adjuvant package)
- ✓ No antagonistic adjuvants or partners
- ✓ Slow down / boom lower
- ✓ Susceptible population

33



OPTIONS TO REDUCE SPRAY DRIFT RISK

Presented by David Johnson (FMC)
Slides by Harry Pickering (Adama) and David Johnson (FMC)



1

TAKE HOME MESSAGES



- When we **Choose to Spray**, will determine where and how far the spray driftable fraction of our application will move
- The **Sprayer Set-up** will determine how much product will be left in the air.
- **Coarser Spray Qualities / Nozzles** will lower drift risk but can also impact efficacy
- Having a set of **Spray-Plans** for different paddock situations will enable efficient, safe and effective spraying.

2

ALL PESTICIDES DRIFT



Glyphosate Drift Simulation - Barley



Untreated



5% Drift Simulation
of Wipeout Pro - 1L/ha

15 DAT

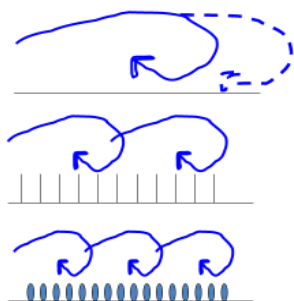
Crop Growth Stage at App - Z22

“WHEN WE CHOOSE TO SPRAY”



Air Movement is Key for Spray Drift Management

Air Movement During the Day is
Turbulent
“Fine droplet management”

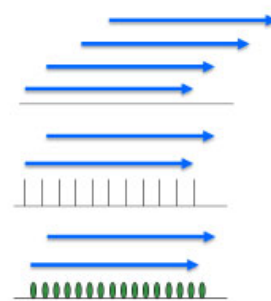


FALLOW GROUND

HEAVY STUBBLE

IN CROP SITUATIONS

Air Movement During a
Hazardous Surface Temperature Inversion
“Fine droplet mayhem”

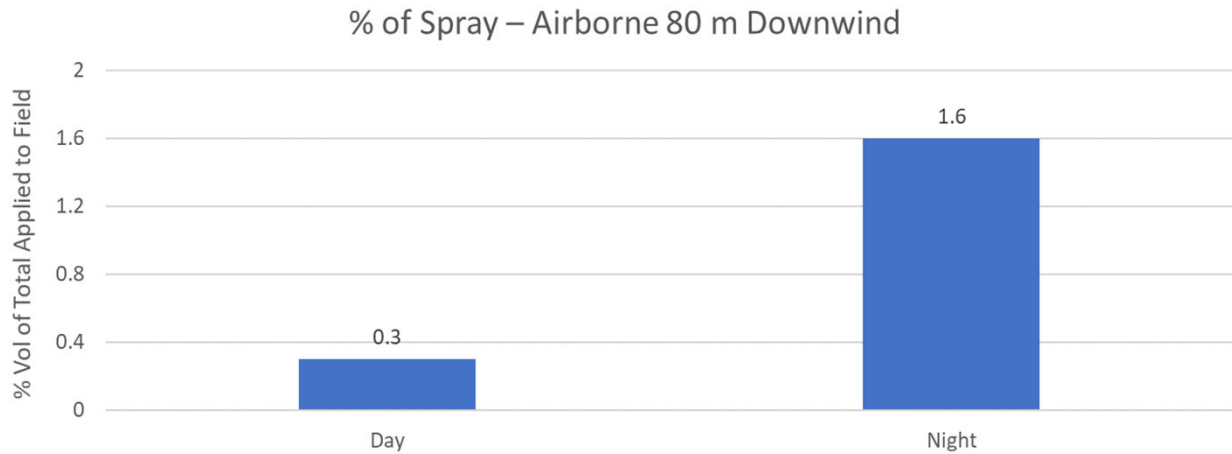


Daytime Spraying > 7km/h Wind

Night-time Spraying

'WHEN WE CHOOSE TO SPRAY'

Air Movement is Key for Spray Drift Management



Environmental Conditions during application			
	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Temperature	Relative Humidity (%)
Night	11.6	25.5	64
Day	18.3	28.7	61

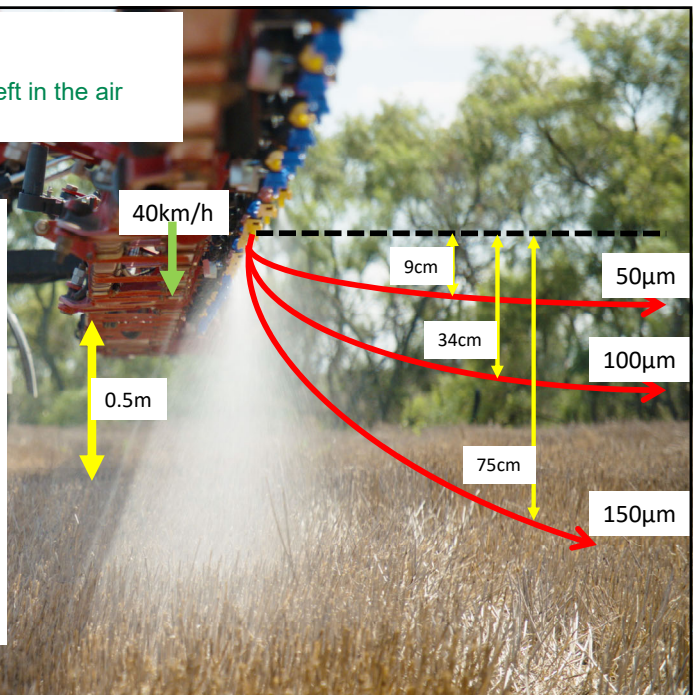
Source – GRDC Tips and Tactics
Reducing herbicide damage
AIXR 11002 – Medium
4 Bar
22 km/ha travel speed
50 L/ha Water Volume

5

"SPRAYER SET-UP"

The Sprayer Set-Up will Determine How Much Product is left in the air

- A fine is a droplet that is too small to get to ground directly out of the nozzle.
- Fines at 0.5m boom height:
 - are droplets smaller than 150µm
 - cannot be controlled out of the nozzle, only managed by the right wind conditions.
 - Will be more likely caught by stubble than the ground.
 - when spraying with a *medium* spray quality, are up to 20% of the spray volume; 10% for *coarse*; 6% for *very coarse* and 1% for *ultra-coarse*.

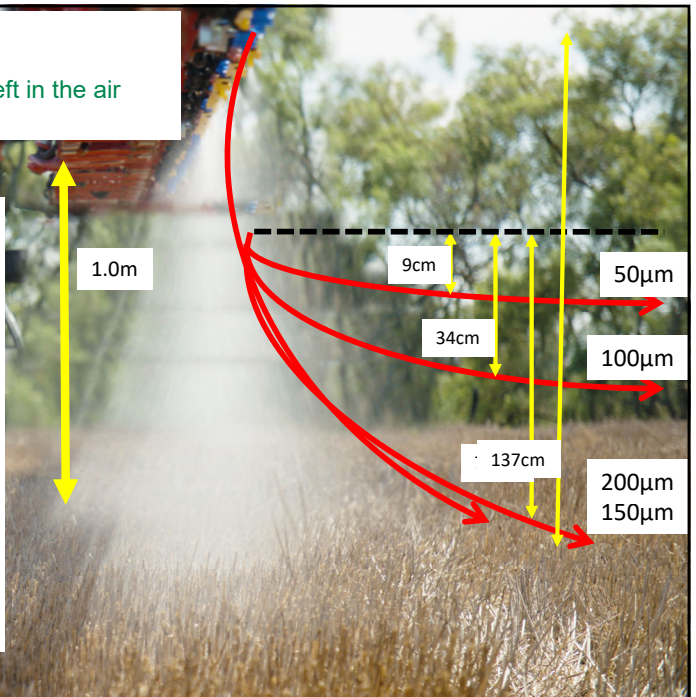


6

“SPRAYER SET-UP”

The Sprayer Set-Up will Determine How Much Product is left in the air

- A fine is a droplet that is too small to get to ground directly out of the nozzle.
- Fines at 1m boom height:
 - are double the volume of 0.5m boom height
 - are droplets smaller than 200µm.
 - when spraying with a *medium* spray quality, are up to 40% of the spray volume; 20% for *coarse*; 12% for *very coarse* and 2% for *ultra-coarse*.
 - Can access wind streams, turbulence or wake effects not felt closer to ground.



7

“SPRAYER SET-UP”

The Sprayer Set-Up will influence downwind buffer zones.

Spraying with a higher boom:

- Is a greater drift risk factor than wind speed
- Increases downwind drift risk zones
- Can be counteracted by using coarser spray qualities

Example: Boom height of 0.5 m, Terrestrial vegetation RAL 1.9 g ai/ha
Wind speed 7 to 20 km/hr

Wind = 7km/h Spray Quality	Boom Height (m)				
	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2
Fine	236	278	324	342	>400
Medium	44	66	116	158	198
Coarse	30	36	60	88	120
Very Coarse	24	30	38	56	78
Ultra-coarse	0	4	24	30	32

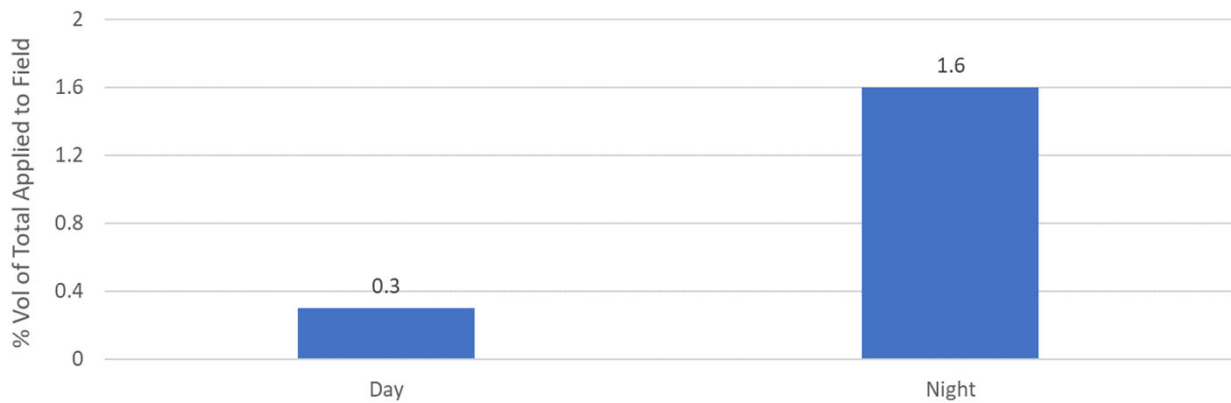
Wind = 20km/h Spray Quality	Boom Height (m)				
	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2
Fine	228	234	238	258	280
Medium	56	78	124	166	206
Coarse	34	48	76	102	130
Very Coarse	30	36	56	72	86
Ultra-coarse	14	24	32	40	46

8

Air Movement and Nozzle Selection



% of Spray – Airborne 80 m Downwind



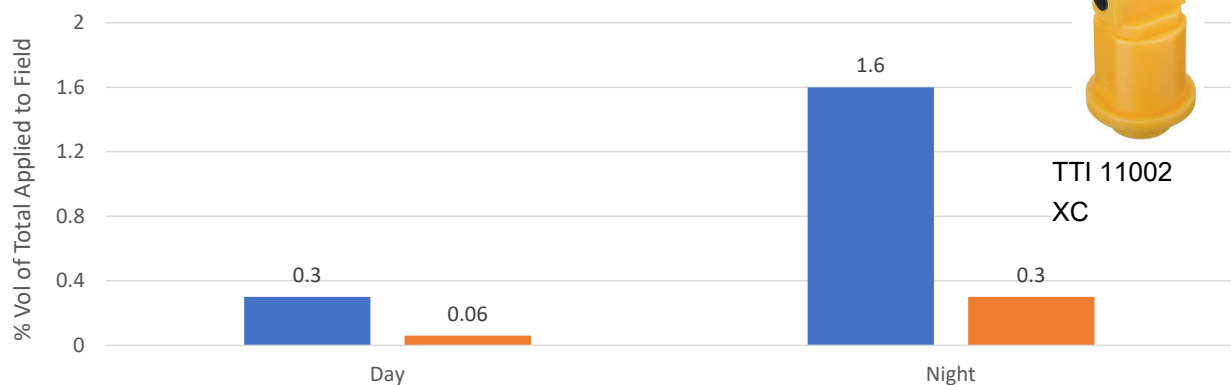
Environmental Conditions during application			
	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Temperature	Relative Humidity (%)
Night	11.6	25.5	64
Day	18.3	28.7	61

Source – GRDC Tips and Tactics
Reducing herbicide damage
AIXR 11002 – Medium
4 Bar
22 km/ha travel speed
50 L/ha Water Volume

Air Movement and Nozzle Selection



% of Spray – Airborne 80 m Downwind



Environmental Conditions during application			
	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Temperature	Relative Humidity (%)
Night	11.6	25.5	64
Day	18.3	28.7	61

Source – GRDC Tips and Tactics
Reducing herbicide damage
AIXR 11002 – Medium
4 Bar
22 km/ha travel speed
50 L/ha Water Volume



TTI 11002
XC

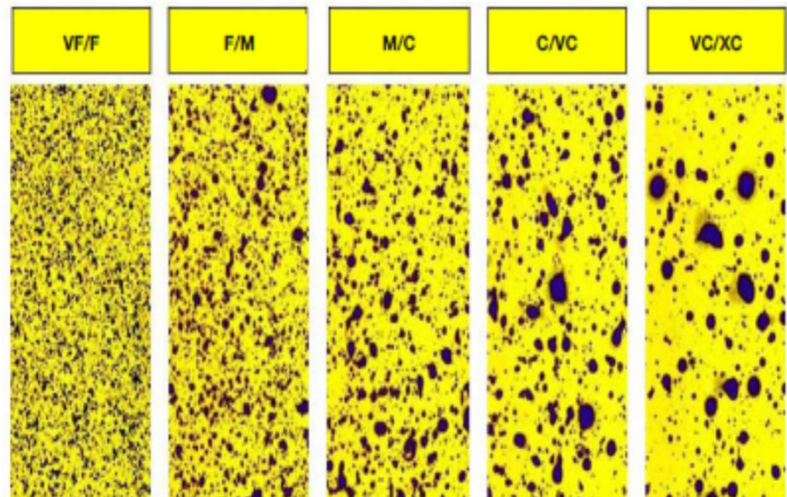
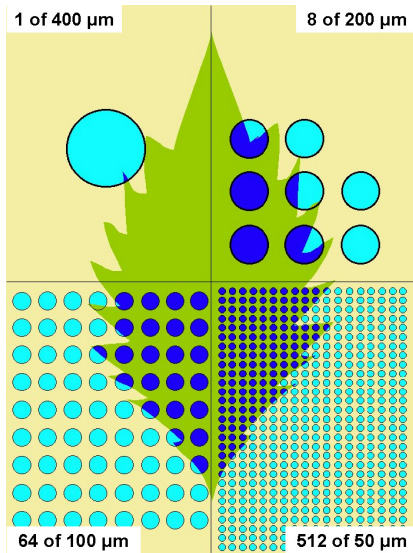
BRAND	Pre-Orifice (RUN ABOVE 1.5-2 BAR)						Low Pressure Air Induction (RUN ABOVE 2-3 BAR)																High Pressure Air Induction (RUN ABOVE 3-4 BAR)															
	Lauchler	Tuslat	WARRI	ALBURY	Tuslat	Tuslat	Higgen	Tuslat	Lauchler	Agency	Higgen	WARRI	WARRI	Lauchler	Tuslat	Higgen	Bella-Ring	ABAP	ALBURY	Tuslat	ABAP	Lauchler	ALBURY	ALBURY	ABAP	ABAP	WARRI	ABAP	Agency	Tuslat	Tuslat	Tuslat						
MODEL	AD-100	DS-110	LD-110	AD-110	TT-110	TT100	ASABE 572.1	ASABE 572.2	ASABE 572.3	ASABE 572.4	ASABE 572.5	ASABE 572.6	ASABE 572.7	ASABE 572.8	ASABE 572.9	ASABE 572.10	ASABE 572.11	ASABE 572.12	ASABE 572.13	ASABE 572.14	ASABE 572.15	ASABE 572.16	ASABE 572.17	ASABE 572.18	ASABE 572.19	ASABE 572.20	ASABE 572.21	ASABE 572.22	ASABE 572.23	ASABE 572.24	ASABE 572.25	ASABE 572.26	ASABE 572.27	ASABE 572.28	ASABE 572.29	ASABE 572.30		
DRIFT QUALITY STANDARD	ASABE 572.1	ASABE 572.2	ASABE 572.3	ASABE 572.4	ASABE 572.5	ASABE 572.6	ASABE 572.7	ASABE 572.8	ASABE 572.9	ASABE 572.10	ASABE 572.11	ASABE 572.12	ASABE 572.13	ASABE 572.14	ASABE 572.15	ASABE 572.16	ASABE 572.17	ASABE 572.18	ASABE 572.19	ASABE 572.20	ASABE 572.21	ASABE 572.22	ASABE 572.23	ASABE 572.24	ASABE 572.25	ASABE 572.26	ASABE 572.27	ASABE 572.28	ASABE 572.29	ASABE 572.30	ASABE 572.31	ASABE 572.32	ASABE 572.33	ASABE 572.34	ASABE 572.35			
Nozzle Size	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0			
015 GREEN	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		
02 YELLOW	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		
025 LILAC	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		
03 BLUE	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		
04 RED	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		
05 BROWN	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	VC	C	C	C	C	C	C	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC		

All nozzle spray qualities in the manufacturer charts are measured with water only.

- Citing ASABE 572.1 or 2 or 3 does not mean the nozzle's spray quality was measured with a non-ionic surfactant in the mix
- Tank mix can dramatically alter the nozzle's spray quality – up to 2 full categories finer e.g. VC on the chart could be M with a tank mix
- Formulation types have different fining-up effects e.g. NIS > SL > EC > WDG > SC
- Choose adjuvant very carefully
- Spray with as coarse a spray quality that still gives acceptable efficacy
- If in doubt, use the lowest pressure of a nozzle within its optimum operating range (2-4 bar for low pressure AI, 4-6 bar for high pressure AI)
- Slow down – consider farm's capacity to get over the crop at a responsible speed (<22km/h) within the limited ideal spraying window and conditions [Spray Plans].

DRIFT REDUCTION AND EFFICACY

Efficacy Needs to be Maintained – Plan Ahead with a Spray Plan



Assess % Coverage with Snapcard app

13

TAKE HOME MESSAGES



- When we **Choose to Spray**, will determine where and how far the spray driftable fraction of our application will move
- The **Sprayer Set-up** will determine how much product will be left in the air.
- **Coarser Spray Qualities / Nozzles** will lower drift risk but can also impact efficacy
- Having a set of **Spray-Plans** for different paddock situations will enable efficient, safe and effective spraying.

14



Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)

A Level 4, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 Australia

P PO Box 5367 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia

T +612 6166 4500

F +612 6166 4599

www.grdc.com.au

 @thegrdc



Update on Spray Drift Reduction Technologies for Grain Crops

Andrew Hewitt

THE CENTRE FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION and SAFETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, GATTON

Background

- Spray drift management is complex and involves optimising the:
 - Equipment setup and nozzle choice
 - Application speed (which can affect the wake, stability, coverage uniformity and choice of nozzle/ pressure)
 - Boom height
 - Tank mix

Continued

- Meteorological conditions
- Atmospheric stability
- Buffers and barriers

- Using drift reduction technologies should be a key part of any drift management approach but not all of these support spraying in adverse conditions or too close to non-target sensitive areas



3

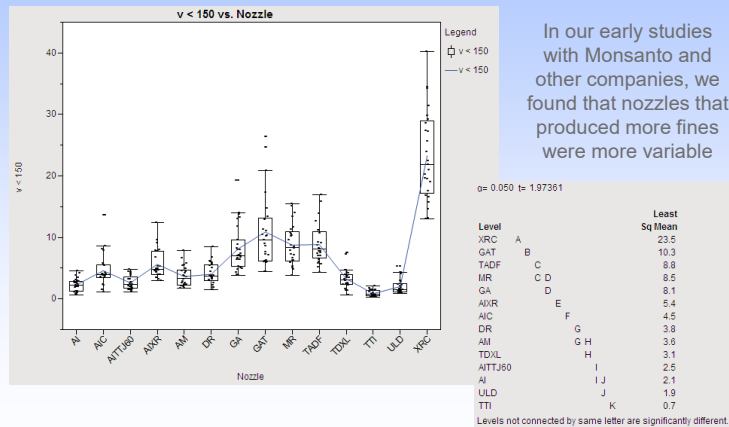
Labels

- Always read and follow the label and all applicable local and federal regulations



4

How Critical Is the Tank Mix for Different Nozzles?



5

Nozzles for lowest drift potential

- CPAS has tested a wide range of nozzles, pressures and tank mixes for herbicide drift management with and without adjuvants in recent months
- Here are some examples of leading options for maximum drift potential reduction



6

TTI and TTI60 Nozzles

- These single and twin exit orifice nozzles are well suited for drift management with a wide range of tank mixes
- Generally <1% Fines and smaller orifices not always finer
- In US, some companies give away TTI nozzles with herbicides that are high drift concern



7

Magnojet Nozzles

- Tested various Magnojet nozzles in wind tunnel. Example – MUG04 and 05 at 3 to 5.5 bar - percent fines (<100 μ m) was zero for tank mixes with herbicides, surfactant and DRAs, and <150 μ m was <1% for all tank mixes.



8

Greenleaf AVI-UC Nozzles

- Minimal Fines across pressures 3 to 5.5 bar
- Single and twin fan options



9

Pentair Hypro 3D Nozzles

- Coarsest sprays with this nozzle are at pressures up to 3.5 bar



10

Hypro PSLDMQ and PSULD MQ Nozzles

- Generally good at pressures up to 3.5 bar



Agrotop TDXLD Nozzles

- Good for pressures up to at least 3.5 bar



Pentair/ Hypro ULD and ULDM Nozzles

- Coarsest sprays at pressures up to at least 3.5 bar and even higher for M (Max) design



13

Wilger UR Nozzles

- Optimised for Pulsed Width Modulation (PWM) spraying systems (also valuable with conventional non-pulsed systems)



14

Tank Mixing

- Some low pH tank mix partners can increase the volatility of some herbicides so take care with AMS and some glyphosates when using low volatile Dicamba products for example
- Most tank mix partners will change the droplet size, particularly where the surface tension decreases with high surfactant loading products



15

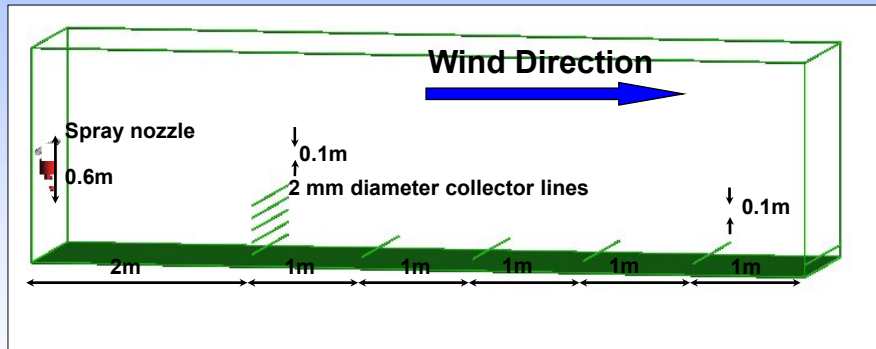
Drift Reduction Adjuvants (DRAs)

- APVMA has a standard test approach for proving DRA performance where nozzles appropriate to the application are selected and the effect of the DRA on droplet size and drift potential are measured in a wind tunnel



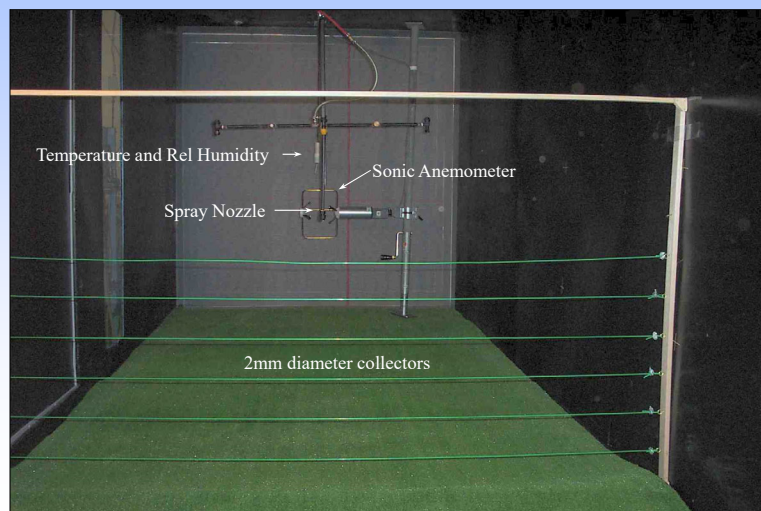
16

Wind Tunnel Measurement of Spray Drift Potential



17

Wind Tunnel Drift Potential Measurement at UQ



18

Examples of DRAs

- Encapsulators of active ingredients to prevent smaller (driftable) droplets containing as much a.i. – but are there solid data to back such claims in all cases?
- Guar gums to increase the extensional viscosity which can reduce Fines with suitable nozzles. Some polymers can help as well, but some broaden the droplet size spectrum and narrow the spray angle



19

Examples to help control droplet size for narrower size spectra

- Some emulsion chemistries rather than solutions when choosing how to reduce surface tension for optimal spray sticking/ wetting/ rainfastness/ uptake/ spreading on leaves – but performance isn't always as good with some tank mixes as with water tests



20

Summary

- Newer nozzles and adjuvants can reduce or eliminate Fines, but be aware that hitting narrow (e.g. grass) weeds and reducing application volume rates can be problematic with sprays that are too coarse
- One size doesn't fit all – some situations may require other technologies such as hoods, shields, barriers, air-assistance etc.



21

Future

- Sensors, robotics, and some drones may help with targeting sprays better at up to 90% lower use rates – we are working on weed control in a 2-year project using sensors
- Tools for applicators to assess the spraying conditions before and during application
- Low volatile products and guidance on tank mixing as well as nozzle interactions



22

How has the drift message changed over the last few years?

- Wind direction: avoiding exposure to non-target areas is the most important factor, and therefore no-spray buffers are directional
- Coarser is better but needs to be in context of avoiding all Fines (e.g. you can use a spray that is Medium but with 0% fines.....its better than a Coarse spray with 10% fines)



23

The Drift Message

- Exposure risk varies with a.i. types and adjuvants can play a positive or negative role – choose wisely
- Higher pressure can be better with some AI nozzles and with narrow angle nozzles (e.g. aerial solid streams)
- Slow down because wake effects and air shear are important



24

The Drift Message

- Calm conditions are risky, with or without a local surface temperature inversion – the solution to pollution is dilution
- The weather and atmospheric stability can vary in short distances and times – it is very dynamic so be attentive when it is calm (little or no wind)
- Be careful with UAVs – claims are often big, but performance data are scarce



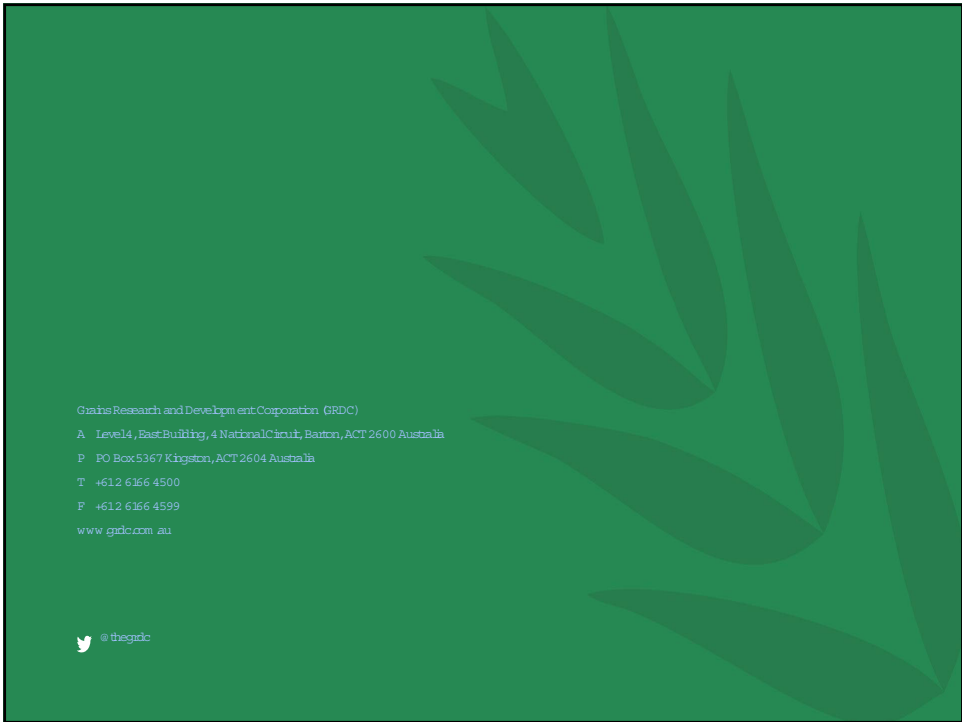
25

Drift

- Delta T is most applicable when sprays are finer, volatile products are higher, release heights greater and application volume rates low



26



Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
A Level 14, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600 Australia
P PO Box 5367 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia
T +612 6366 4500
F +612 6366 4599
www.grdc.com.au

 @thegrdc

Trade display exhibitors

	<p>Know what's there before you spray. Want to spot spray with your existing sprayer? Want to blanket spray and spot spray simultaneously? Want to know the area to spot spray before you spray? Want to scout for herbicide resistant weeds? Find out how, with weed mapping at 200ha per hour at Single Agriculture.</p>	<p>www.singleagriculture.com.au</p> 
	<p>Colex-D Herbicide contains a novel 2,4-D salt and formulation technology that reduces drift potential, volatility and 2,4-D odour. The proposed label will contain specific criteria and compatibility statements to support these claims. With efficacy equal to 2,4-D amine, this is a 2,4-D that can be applied with confidence.</p>	<p>https://www.corteva.com.au/</p> 
	<p>GeoSelect, a new spraying solution designed to save farmers money, time and create greater efficiency while working the harsh Australian landscape.</p>	<p>https://www.hardi.com.au/</p> 
	<p>Croplands Equipment is a leading manufacturer and supplier of agriculture spraying equipment. We have been partnering with growers around the world to bring out the very best in their operations for over 50 years.</p>	<p>https://croplands.com/au/</p> 
	<p>McIntosh Distribution is leading Australian machinery distributor for national brands including Miller Sprayers and WeedSeeker 2. With a commitment to excellent customer service, McIntosh Distribution aims to provide growers with industry-leading equipment, service and after-sales support.</p>	<p>http://www.mcintoshdistribution.com.au/</p> 
	<p>Nobody likes to get a fine. FMC developed On Coarse[®] DRA (Drift Reducing Adjuvant) to provide applicators with the confidence and knowledge to apply 2,4-D/glyphosate mixtures with a wide range of nozzles to produce genuine Very Coarse (VC), Extremely Coarse (XC) or Ultra Coarse (UC) spray qualities. Make less fines with On Coarse[®] DRA</p>	<p>www.fmccrop.com.au</p> 
	<p>Detailed discussion on updated Agronics equipment built to suit the Central Queensland environment, customisation to suit specific needs of farmers.</p>	<p>https://milnebros.com.au/</p> 
	<p>Using See & Spray Select, farmers and contractors can apply complex tank mixes more efficiently and easily switch from targeted to broadcast spraying without leaving the tractor cab. See & Spray Select has an integrated camera technology that rapidly detects green plants within fallow ground and automatically triggers an application to those plants. In doing so, it achieves a similar hit rate to traditional broadcast spraying but uses, on average, 77% less herbicide.</p>	<p>https://www.rdoequipment.com.au/application-equipment/</p> 