

CALIBRATING A HAND SPRAYER

Here's an accepted way to calibrate a single-nozzle hand sprayer.

Find a walking rate that is comfortable for you. Hold the nozzle tip at a distance above the surface to be sprayed that is both comfortable and within the recommended range of the nozzle, generally about 18 inches. (You might want to tie one end of an 18 inch piece of string to the nozzle and a small weight to the other end.)

Step 1: Measure an area 10 by 25 feet (250 sq. ft.) for the test area.

Step 2: Fill the sprayer to a level that's easily recognized. Be sure there's enough water in the tank to cover the test area.

Step 3: Pump the sprayer up to a sufficient pressure that provides an optimum spray pattern.

Step 4: Spray the pre-measured area. Walk at a constant rate and hold the nozzle tip at the same height over the entire test area. (Do not move the wand back and forth. Hold it in one position.)

Step 5: Refill the tank to the original water level. Note the exact amount of liquid needed to refill the tank. That amount is the volume per 250 sq. ft.

Step 6: Depending on label recommendations; 1) Multiply the volume for 250 sq. ft. by 4 to get the volume per 1000 sq. ft. or 2) multiply the volume for 250 sq. ft. by 175 to get the volume per acre.

Step 7: Check the label for restrictions on minimum volume applied per 1000 sq. ft. or per acre. Frequently, pesticide labels explicitly state that the pesticide must be applied with a given number of gallons of water. If the sprayer delivers more water per area than needed, walk at faster rate or change to a

nozzle tip with a smaller orifice. If the sprayer delivers less water than needed, walk a slower rate or change to a nozzle tip with a larger orifice. In either case, repeat Steps 2 through 6.

Step 8: Determine the amount of pesticide needed for each gallon of spray and the amount needed per tankful. Add this amount to the spray tank and then fill with water. Begin application.

Step 9: Frequently stop and pump up your sprayer to insure uniform discharge.

This information was supplied by the Pesticide Applicator Training Office at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. Article seen in Landscape Management, February 1992 Issue.

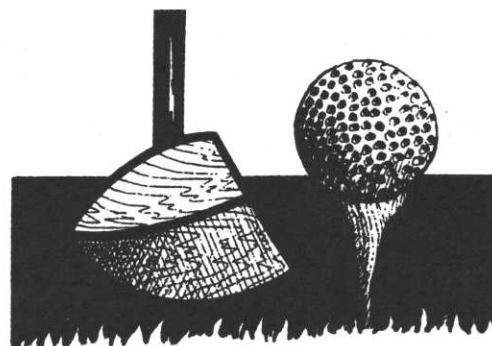
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