

# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## SPRAYING

Steve Graham offers some tips on spraying



### 1. *Communicate your intentions*

Golfers are also members of the public and many have a fear of pesticides brought about by lack of information and inaccurate media reporting. By providing advance notice of the spray operation and placing visible signs on the course will help reduce or even eliminate members concerns and misunderstanding. Always ensure your spraying practices are in line with Club policy and Risk Assessments.

### 2. *Spray only when conditions are favourable*

Always check the local weather forecast and note wind speed and direction. Spraying should only commence when climatic and ground conditions are favourable. On courses with ditches, ponds and lakes a LERAP\* assessment must take place.

### 3. *Keep up to date*

Many chemical products that previously had Approval are being withdrawn from the list. Always check with your supplier the current status of all products before spraying and dispose of those that are out of date or that have been removed from the Approvals list. Read the product label and ensure the minimum recommended protective clothing is worn. Never leave pesticide containers unsupervised.

### 4. *Accurate targeting of the spray is essential*

Do not exceed the calibration speed when spraying as this may cause boom bounce or even spray turbulence, resulting in uneven application. Adding a spray pattern indicator such as 'Trailblazer' to the tank solution will alert the operator to excess overlap and/or missed areas. If there is insufficient spray solution left in the tank to complete the operation again check the pressure gauge but also recalibrate nozzle output and check for worn nozzles.

### 5. *Spray drift can be controlled*

Eliminate spray drift by selecting the correct pressure/nozzle combination. High pressure means smaller droplets that can carry in the wind. Fitting low drift nozzles such as the Billericay Air Bubble Jet can reduce spray drift by up to 75%. Stop spraying immediately when spray drift becomes unacceptable.

### 6. *Plan to finish with a near empty tank*

Plan the spraying operation so that the tank contents are applied only to the target area. Where this is not possible, empty any remaining solution in areas that are compatible with its approved use or, in areas approved by the local environment agency. If there is excess spray solution left in tank it might mean that the pressure gauge is inaccurate or the filters are clogged.

### 7. *Personal safety is a 'no brainer'!*

Never eat, drink or smoke whilst spraying. If a break is taken during the operation remove any contaminated clothing and wash hands and face thoroughly. At the end of the operation, wash all exposed skin with soap and hot water. Also, don't forget to wash the protective clothing that was worn, including the inside of gloves, face visor or goggles.

### 8. *Clean up responsibly*

After spraying, hose down the outside of the sprayer (including the prime mover),

remove nozzles and thoroughly flush out the tank, pump and spray lines with clean water. This must be done in an area that complies with local environment agency regulations. To remove all traces of pesticide and keep the tank free from residue buildup, a tank cleaner such as Clearspray can be used.

### 9. *Be safe and, secure*

To complete the spray operation, ensure all chemical containers are securely closed and stored in an approved storage facility. Empty, or unwanted containers must be disposed of in accordance with the Code of Practice.

### 10. *It's the Law, but also your protection*

The law states that adequate records must be kept of all operations involving the use of pesticides. To comply with the Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986), records should be completed immediately after spraying has finished. Remember, memories quickly fade and these records are useful for referring back to applications undertaken in the past and as a record for any dispute that may arise if the operation was unsuccessful.

\* LERAP – Local Environmental Risk Assessment Procedure

For further information and advice on spraying:

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