



Horticulture

Industry Network

Vegetable IDO Update



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Have Your Say on Spray Drift buffer zones

Spray drift is a concern that can alarm the community and increases the likelihood of regulations that restrict the use of agricultural chemicals.

Over the next few years, all agricultural chemical products will be reviewed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, (APVMA).

To ensure growers are not unnecessarily restricted by resulting changes to chemical product labels, **DPI Chemical Standards** are conducting a [five minute online survey](#).



Your responses to this **anonymous survey** will enable the APVMA to make spray drift assessments based on **actual industry practice** rather than 'worse case' estimates and will benefit your business and the horticultural industries as a whole.

The survey is available until 30 June 2010 at:

<http://waterrate.questionpro.com>

The APVMA is responsible for ensuring that off-target pesticide spray drift does not harm human health, the environment or Australia's international trade.

The APVMA review will result in the establishment of "**mandatory downwind NO SPRAY buffer zones**" away from identified sensitive areas.

These buffer zones will be based on the amount of chemical applied per hectare, and will vary depending on the water rate used to apply the product, (ie. 100 mL product to 100 L water).

Currently, there is little information about what typical water rates are actually used in industry.

As a result, the new buffer zones may be based on "**worst case**" water rates and set at greater distances than needed for actual water rates, making them more difficult to manage.

Spray drift can be minimized by :

- increasing water volume
- lowering the spray boom
- creating larger spray droplets
- reducing spray pressure.

However, the best strategy is to avoid spray applications when wind conditions are high.

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