

## Ralphy's Spraying and Calibration Guide

Before you decide to spray any foliar product through a pressure pack, whether it be a handheld pressure pack, or a backpack sprayer. You must calibrate it first before applying any products.

We do this so we know how much liquid we are using to cover the area you're planning on spraying. Water is generally a carrier only for most foliar products. So you need to work out how much liquid you need to cover the area and mix the product and the water to reach this calibrated amount.

The risk of not calibrating is that you could put either too much product out and empty your tank before finishing the area. Or it could be the other way around and have a lot left in your tank when you finish. Meaning you didn't put enough product out. Either way it is a hassle to go to all that effort and not get it right.

### To Calibrate your sprayer

- For my guide we are marking out 25sqm to do the testing.
- Find a good flat concrete or paved area to do the test. We use a hard surface like concrete as it's easier to see the where we have sprayed. This can be the driveway or the road or even a Basketball court nearby etc.
- Mark out your area, 5m x 5m will get you to the total of 25sqm.
- Fill a measuring jug that you have with water only and take note of how much water you are starting with. On this guide I have a 3L jug and I will put 3L of water into my sprayer.
- Once you have filled the sprayer proceed to spray the area marked out.
- You should be walking at a comfortable pace with the end of the spray wand up about 30-50cm high off the ground.
- Once finished, tip the remaining water back out into the measuring jug and work out how much water you just used spraying.
- I poured my water out after spraying and it is showing I have 2.2L left, so I used 800mls of water to spray that 25sqm.

### Tips

- I normally repeat the spraying to make sure this figure is correct.
- I will also repeat the testing if I'm using a different nozzle size and if I'm switching between a boom with multiple nozzles and single nozzle as well.
- I also record all data down either on the phone or in a book, so I don't forget and can reflect back if needed.

### Spray Calculations

Now you have the numbers needed to proceed it is easy to work out total volume of liquid needed. I have 100sqm I wish to spray. So I now multiply that 800mls by 4, being 4 x25 is 100 and that gives me a total of 3200mls. So to spray 100sqm I need a total of 3.2L of water and product combined. You can also change the number to suit your square meterage. For instance, you have 80sqms to spray you know you need 3200mls to spray 100sqm so divide 3200mls by 10 and then multiply it again by 8 which equals 2560mls or 2.56L of spray mixture.

### Spray Surfactant

A spray Surfactant is a liquid in which you add to your spray tank to help a product, generally a herbicide, stick to the leaf of a weed. You will find some weeds have a hairy or waxy leaf type and when sprayed the chemical can just roll right off and into the soil being completely wasted. For these instances a surfactant is essential.

### Spray Marker Dye

Spray Markers are Dye Based liquids, generally blue or red, which help you see what you have sprayed. This is particularly good if you are spot spraying, so you don't forget what you have sprayed. It is also good to use to make sure you have got that even spray across your lawn.