

### Introduction

Growers have a responsibility to ensure aerial spraying of chemicals is conducted effectively and safely. Adverse incidents reported to major retailers by concerned members of the public, can have negative outcomes such as loss of market access by the grower.

### Ensure only reputable and appropriately licensed contractors are engaged to conduct aerial spraying.

The Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA) maintains its own industry accreditations. Aerial operators should have at least one of the following AAAA industry accreditations:

**Spraysafe Accreditation**- the minimum standard set by industry for aerial operators and based on a self-audit system overseen by the AAAA.

**Aerial Improvement Management System (AIMs) Accreditation**- the highest standard set by industry for aerial operators. It is based on a stringent and complex BMP and is independently audited. Ask if that the operator holds chemical liability insurance?

### Talk to the aerial operator and understand what is achievable to ensure a safe and accurate application.

- ⇒ Discuss any issues that may be present at the property and how to address them before application commences.
- ⇒ Supply the aerial operator with current information including detailed maps, clearly showing the target area and the location of any obstacles e.g. power lines, tall structures, houses, tree lines public roads, personnel within crops being treated, environmental sensitive areas.
- ⇒ Consider weather conditions and geography – wind speed and direction. The operator may have to come back a later time to achieve complete and even coverage.
- ⇒ Consider how to minimise spray drift and off-target spraying - weather conditions (wind speed and direction), time of day to minimise disturbance, use of vegetative buffer zones.
- ⇒ Understand how the operator manages spray drift including the tools they use e.g. GPS, smoke generators, GPS, flow regulators, droplet regulators.
- ⇒ Understand the laws regarding buffer zones required between aircraft, residences and public places.

### Communication

- ⇒ Work with neighbours as much as possible to arrange suitable times for aerial spraying. This includes public areas near the treatment area such as schools, community gathering areas, and roads.
- ⇒ Ensure all staff are notified of an imminent aerial application organise staff to be away from the treatment area.

⇒ Maintain communication with the aerial operator throughout the application.

⇒ Ask the aerial operator to confirm when the job has been completed.

### Ensure spray chemicals are registered for bananas and aerial application.

Also ensure they are mixed correctly and the appropriate equipment is used. Ensure droplet size and nozzles are appropriate for the type of product being applied.

Equipment should be maintained and calibrated regularly, and records kept

### Maintain Records

Records should be kept relating to which chemicals are used, how and when they were applied the prevailing weather conditions, authorised persons involved.

**If a grower suspects an offence has been committed by the operator e.g.** operating in unsuitable conditions or recklessly applying chemicals it should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 132523

### Links

Banana BMP provides detailed information aerial spraying and outlines the responsibility of growers to ensure it is effectively and safely: [www.abgc.org.au/projects-resources/best-management-practices-bmp/](http://www.abgc.org.au/projects-resources/best-management-practices-bmp/)

For more information on spray drift, refer to the Agricultural Chemical Users' Manual, pages 88 to 99 at the link below [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/54738/AgC\\_hem-UsersManual.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/54738/AgC_hem-UsersManual.pdf).

More information on design and plant selection for buffer zones is available in the agriculture note "Using buffer zones and vegetative barriers to reduce spray drift," located on the Victorian Department of Primary Industries website, or by following the link: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farmmanagement/chemical-use/agricultural-chemical-use/spraying-spraydrift-and-off-target-damage/using-buffer-zones-and-vegetativebarriers-to-reduce-spray-drift>.

For more information on how to calibrate spray tanks refer to the Agricultural Chemical Users' Manual, pages 74 to 87, at the link below: [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/54738/AgC\\_hem-UsersManual.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/54738/AgC_hem-UsersManual.pdf).

**This fact sheet has been adapted by the ABGC from information outlined in the Banana Best Management Practices Manual.**

