
CropLife Australia Calls for Responsible Spraying During Peak Season

Canberra, 30 January 2025: CropLife Australia and its members are urging farmers to take extra care with spray applications this summer, while managing weed growth resulting from the combination of high temperatures and heavy rain over recent months. By using best-practice product application techniques and adhering to product labels, farmers can protect their crops, the environment, and their access to these crucial tools while reducing the risk of spray drift.

“Spray drift can have serious consequences for neighbouring crops and the environment,” said Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, the national peak industry organisation for the plant science sector, Mr Matthew Cossey. “Thankfully we’ve seen very few instances of spray drift this summer due to the expertise of Australian farmers and their commitment to Good Agricultural Practice. But we must remain vigilant, especially during challenging weather conditions, because even one incident is too many.”

CropLife Australia and its members invest heavily in stewardship programs to ensure farmers can make informed decisions and are equipped with the tools and knowledge to prevent spray drift. Through the StewardshipFirst® initiative, CropLife has developed industry-leading resources, including:

- **SprayBEST:** A comprehensive training and accreditation program tailored for ground rig application, providing farmers with the latest techniques to prevent spray drift.
- **MyAgCHEMuse:** A one-stop-shop platform offering vital information on product use, weather conditions, and stewardship resources.

Tips for spraying this summer


“There is no excuse for spraying in unsuitable conditions,” said Mr Cossey. “Following product labels is not only a legal obligation but a hallmark of world-class farming practice.”

Labels include science-based instructions to minimise spray drift and maximise efficacy, ensuring that farmers protect their crops and communities while maintaining the long-term viability of these farming tools.

Nozzle selection, temperature, wind speed, humidity, ground speed and water volumes all affect spray movement and play critical roles in determining the optimal conditions for spraying. Farmers are urged to monitor conditions closely and take proactive measures to prevent unintended off-target movement of spray applications.

About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife’s members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than \$31.6 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation’s agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is a part of the plant science industry’s 91 country international federation.



“There are many reasons, but there is no excuse for spray drift,” Mr Cossey said. “Failing to follow label directions and spraying in unsafe conditions can lead to regulatory and compliance action, including the potential loss of spraying licenses.

“Farmers have access to the right tools and resources to avoid costly mistakes. Staying informed and vigilant through best-practice spray application is just better for your back pocket, your produce, and your community.” Mr Cossey concluded.

CropLife Australia continues to work with industry stakeholders, agronomists, and government agencies to ensure Australian agriculture remains at the forefront of responsible product use and environmental stewardship. For more information on CropLife's stewardship programs and best practices for spray drift management, visit stewardshipfirst.org.au.

- ENDS

Contact: Elyse Denman | 0459 550 010 | elyse.denman@croplife.org.au

About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife's members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than \$31.6 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation's agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is a part of the plant science industry's 91 country international federation.

