

Appendix VI

Good agrichemical spray management practices

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1. Introduction

This Appendix has been developed from various sources of information, including information sheets from MAF, and regional plans developed by other regional councils. The material relating to spray management is based on information contained in New Zealand Standard 8409: Agrichemical Users Code of Practice, June 1995, developed by the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust.

This Appendix has been included in the Plan in a simple and convenient form for general public information and education purposes. The information contained in this Appendix also provides general guidance on the best practicable option for preventing or minimising adverse effects on the environment from the application of agrichemicals. It provides a general indication of the nature of the conditions that might be attached to a resource consent for the application of agrichemicals.

2. Any person discharging aquatic herbicides:

- Should use only herbicides with label claims for use in or over bodies of water.
- For spraying of emergent plants should not submerge treated plants.
- Should always proceed upstream while spraying flowing watercourses, to avoid any build-up of herbicide concentration in the water.
- Should notify landowners whose stock have access to the waterway, or who use the waterway for potable water.
- Should apply agrichemicals to lakes in periods of the year when water temperatures are low, the weed is growing, but when there is not a high standing crop, in order to avoid adverse effects on aquatic life.
- Should apply agrichemicals to parts of the water body at intervals of at least ten days and not simultaneously over the whole area. Fish then have an opportunity to move to untreated areas if the dissolved oxygen content drops significantly.
- Water that has been treated with aquatic herbicides should not be used for the following purposes, until the times specified have elapsed after treatment:
 - Standing water: bathing, human consumption, fish farming, and livestock watering (24 hours); overhead irrigation (10 days);
 - Flowing water should not be used for the above purposes for 24 hours. Though it is difficult to determine the distance downstream from the treated stretch that the limitation should apply in, the general criteria are:
 - Near-static water (flowing not more than 1 km in 24 hours): the limitation should apply to the treated section and 1 km downstream;
 - Faster flowing water: the limitation should apply over the treated stretch and the distance treated water would move in 24 hours, or up to the point of discharge into the main body of receiving water.

3. Any person discharging aquatic herbicides by spray application:

- Should undertake an accredited or recognised course in the use of agrichemical sprays.
- Should not spray if the wind speed over the area to be sprayed is less than one metre per second.
- Should have particular regard to wind speed and direction during the application of spray.

- Should discharge sprays during periods of positive air movement away from sensitive receiving environments (including water courses, places of public assembly, and public amenity areas).
- Should have particular regard to selection of nozzle size and pressure of spray units, to prevent or minimise the potential for spray drift.
- Should dilute spray solutions to the proper concentration for application.
- Should dispose of surplus spray solution and spray containers according to recommendations of the manufacturer or supplier, as stated in the directions on the product container label.
- Should keep specific records of the type of each spray applied, the volume of spray used, the volume of product concentrate used, the date, and the locality.
- Should use only those agrichemicals currently licensed for use by the Pesticides Registration Board.
- Should apply sprays strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, as stated on the product container label.
- Should preferably use sprays of low volatility or low toxicity.
- Should use equipment generating a droplet size greater than 50 microns in diameter, and preferably greater than 250 microns.