

# Calibration and maintenance of pesticide application equipment Key points for success

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Workshop on Pesticide application equipment

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- Importance of calibration
- Calibration procedure
- Dose expression alternatives
- Tools for an easy calibration
- Sprayer maintenance



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## Importance of calibration

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Calibration procedure, whatever method is chosen represents great benefits when it is developed prior the application task

- Less pesticide use (according 128/2009/CE Directive)
- Increase of efficiency/efficacy of pesticide application process
- Less investment (pesticide, water, fuel, time,...)
- Less risk of contamination (TOPPS, TOPPS-PROWADIS,...)

**Adequate calibration**



**optimal adjustment**



**less drift losses**







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### Interest and benefits of calibration/adjustment of pesticide application equipment

**Official inspection of Sprayers**  
(acc. article 8) (Basis)

Procedure is **obligate** for MS  
(128/2009/CE)

- +  
1) Calibration
- +  
2) Adjustment related to the canopy structure
- +  
3) Drift reducing Technology

Tools are **voluntary**  
Tools on which growers are mainly interested  
Tools can be implemented step by step

**The supplementation of the official inspection by additional tools will lead to a win-win situation with benefits for public and growers / added values!**



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### Calibration is also mentioned in EU Directive

CHAPTER II  
TRAINING, SALES OF PESTICIDES, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Article 5

Training

1. Member States shall ensure that all professional users, distributors and advisors have access to **appropriate training** by bodies designated by the competent authorities. This shall consist of both initial and additional training to acquire and **update knowledge as appropriate**.

The training shall be designed to ensure that such users, distributors and advisors acquire **sufficient knowledge** regarding the subjects listed in Annex I, taking account of their different roles and responsibilities.

Being not mandatory, is widely recommended and explicitly cited on the EU Directive. So...

CHAPTER III  
PESTICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

Article 8

Inspection of equipment in use

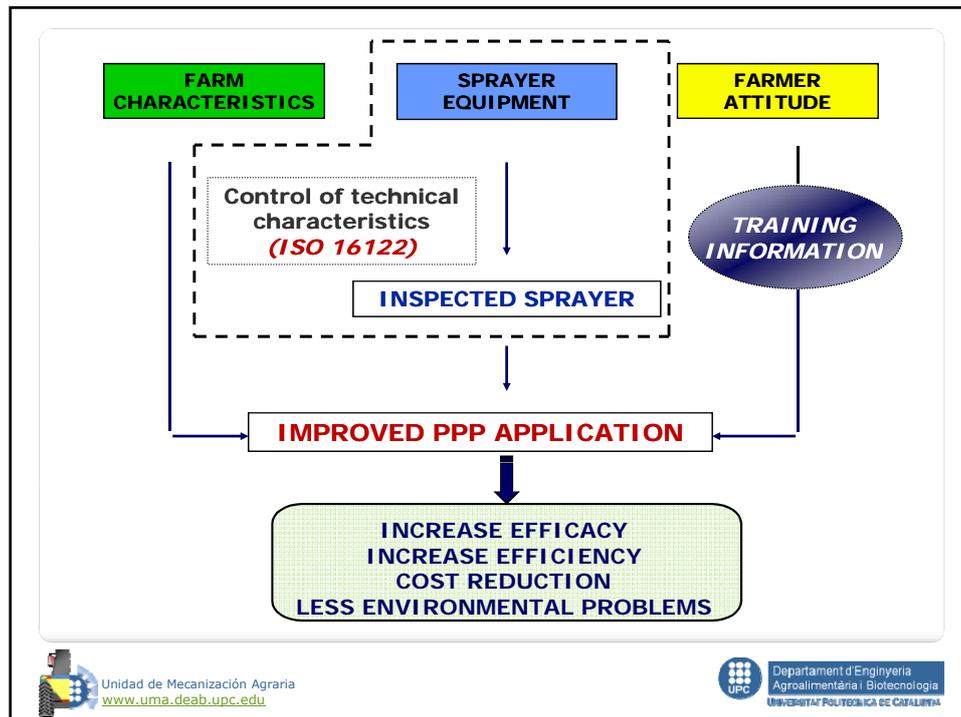
5. Professional users shall conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of the pesticide application equipment in accordance with the appropriate training received as provided for in Article 5.



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Farmers recalled that **incentives are preferred to penalties**, which are difficult to accept for farmers. They prefer voluntary approaches. Hence **skill development and knowledge/technology transfer are important elements** to be developed in the thematic strategy. (Hind, 2002)

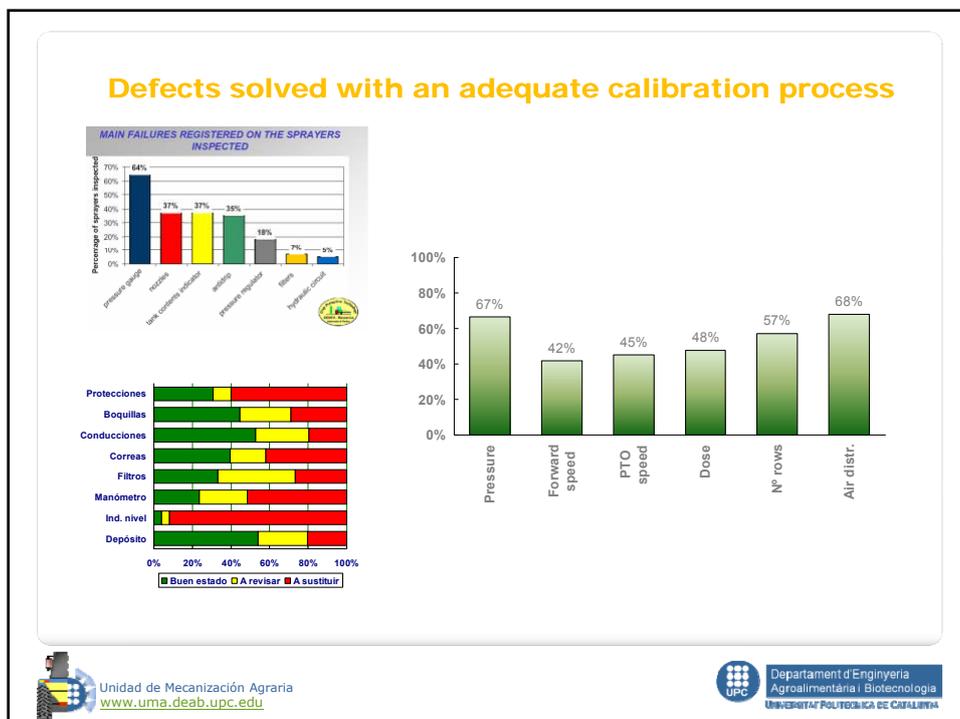
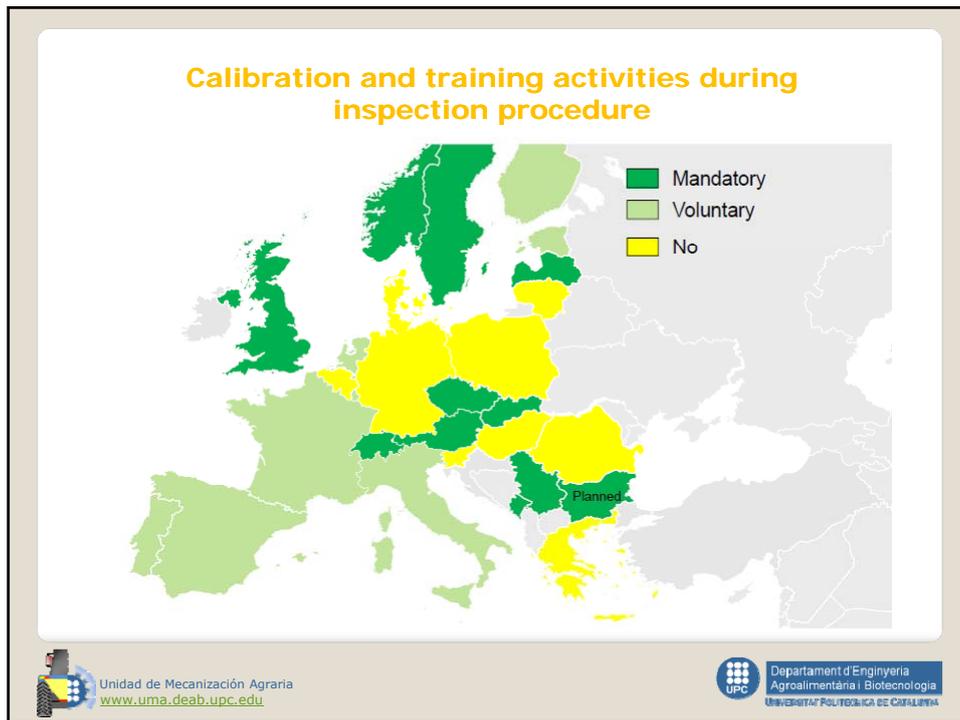
Use **inspections as a platform** to increase users' awareness (Stakeholder's Conference, 2004)

The government (Belgium) always stressed that the mandatory **inspection of spraying equipment should not be repressive but educative** and beneficial for the user. (Braekman and Sonck, 2005)

The farmers were more willing to "accept" information when given **personally and adjusted to site specific conditions** than when received through general letters and pamphlets. (Kreuger and Nilsson, 2001)

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These sprayers have been **successfully inspected**

... **but not calibrated !**

**Air flow volume/range – driving speed**  
**Type / size / number of nozzles**



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Importance of calibration

**Calibration procedure**

Dose expression alternatives

Tools for an easy calibration

Sprayer maintenance



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## Calibration: the key point



Invest 15 min to adjust the sprayer for an optimal use according the particular conditions



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## Preconditions for a good calibration process

- ✓ Simple ... and yet effective
- ✓ Not costly
- ✓ verifiable

**USER-FRIENDLY**



UNIVERSALITY

LARGE SCALE PERFORMANCE



**PERMANENT and FIRM PROGRESS**



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## Preconditions for a good calibration process

Whatever the selected process must be  
**SIMPLE** and **PERFORMABLE**

- ✓By the grower himself
- ✓At the grower's site – field
- ✓In the interaction with the target
- ✓With simple tools
- ✓With options for inquiring-minded growers



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## Parameters for a good calibration process

- Assumed**
- *Spray volume*
  - *PPP type and characteristics*
  - *Air flow volume*
  - *Air flow range/direction*



- Measured**
- *Boom width*
  - *Boom height*
  - *Forward speed*
  - *Tree height and width*
  - *Row spacing*



- Determined**
- *Nozzle flow rate*
  - *Nozzle size*
  - *Working pressure*
  - *Nozzle type*
  - *Number of nozzles*
  - *Nozzle orientation*



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**Calibration & adjustment is important**







**Calibration & adjustment is absolutely necessary**



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## Calibration procedure

**Objective**

Select the most adequate working parameters to obtain an uniform and precise distribution of the intended amount of pesticide over the target



➔

**Easy**

- Uniform target
- "2D"
- Liquid
- Evenness
- Low risk





➔

**Difficult**

- No Uniform target
- "3D"
- Liquid + air
- Heterogeneity
- High risk



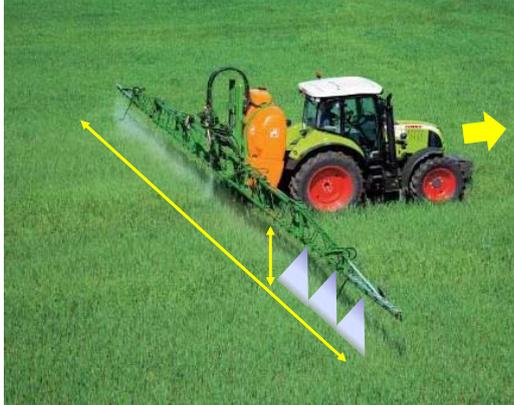


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## Field boom sprayer calibration process



### Objective **V (l/ha)**

Even distribution over the field

### Parameters (measured)

Boom width [**a**] (m)

Boom height [**h**] (m)

Forward speed [**v**] (km/h)

### Parameters (calculated)

Nozzle type

Flow rate [**q**] (l/min)

Working pressure (bar)

$$q \text{ (l/min)} = \frac{V \text{ (l/ha)} \times a \text{ (m)} \times v \text{ (km/h)}}{600}$$



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Example:  
Calibration of a field boom sprayer for **200 l/ha**

1. Determine nozzle flow rate and working pressure



Boom width: 24 m



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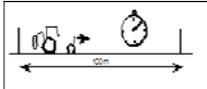


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**Volume: 200 l/ha**

**Recommended volume**  
**200 l/ha**



Fwd. Speed (km/h)  $\frac{3,6 \times 100}{\text{time (s)}}$

**Fwd. speed table**

t (s/100m)	45	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	85	90	95
v (km/h)	8,0	7,5	7,2	<b>6,9</b>	6,7	6,4	6,2	6,0	5,8	5,6	5,5	5,3	5,1	5,0	4,9	4,7	4,5	4,4	4,2	4,0	3,8

**NOZZLE FLOW RATE CALCULATION**

**1,15**  
l/min

**200**      **6,9**      **0,5**

volume (l/ha) x Fwd. speed (km/h) x Nozzle distance (m)

---

600

**DROPLET SIZE**  
Product characteristics and environment conditions)

**WORKING PRESSURE**  
Select according droplets characteristics

**CHECK**  
Us a graduate recipient to check the real flow rate of the nozzles and compare with catalogue information

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**Volume: 200 l/ha**

Search the intended flow rate on the adequate nozzle catalogue. In this case ISO nozzles



**3 bar**

*Intended flow rate – 1,15 l/min*

*Closest flow rate on table – **1,18 l/min***

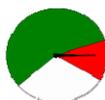
Pressure [bar]	Flow rate [l/min]									
	01	015	02	025	03	04	05	06	08	
1	0,23	0,34	0,46	0,57	0,68	0,91	1,14	1,37	1,82	
2	0,32	0,48	0,65	0,81	0,96	1,29	1,61	1,94	2,58	
3	0,39	0,59	0,79	0,99	<b>1,18</b>	1,58	1,97	2,37	3,16	
4	0,45	0,68	0,91	1,14	1,36	1,82	2,27	2,74	3,63	
5	0,50	0,76	1,02	1,28	1,52	2,04	2,54	3,06	4,08	

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### Factors for a correct calibration

$$Q = k \times \sqrt{P}$$



To increase flow rate x2 working pressure must be increased x4

$$2 \times Q = k \times \sqrt{4 \times P}$$

*Best option to modify flow rate is to select the adequate nozzle size according the droplet spectrum desired*



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Bar	Debit en l/mn									
	BLANCHE	LILAS	MARRON	JAUNE	ORANGE	ROUGE	GRISE	VERTE	NOIRE	BLEU
3	0,21	0,28	0,38	0,57	0,77	1,08	1,18	1,40	1,57	1,92
4	0,24	0,32	0,43	0,65	0,89	1,24	1,35	1,60	1,80	2,20
5	0,27	0,36	0,49	0,73	0,99	1,38	1,50	1,78	2,00	2,45
6	0,29	0,39	0,52	0,80	1,08	1,51	1,63	1,94	2,18	2,67
7	0,32	0,42	0,56	0,86	1,17	1,62	1,76	2,09	2,35	2,87
8	0,34	0,45	0,60	0,92	1,24	1,73	1,87	2,22	2,50	3,06
9	0,36	0,48	0,64	0,97	1,32	1,83	1,98	2,35	2,64	3,24
10	0,38	0,50	0,67	1,03	1,39	1,92	2,08	2,47	2,78	3,40
11	0,39	0,52	0,70	1,07	1,45	2,01	2,17	2,58	2,90	3,56
12	0,41	0,55	0,73	1,12	1,51	2,09	2,26	2,69	3,03	3,71
13	0,43	0,57	0,76	1,17	1,57	2,17	2,35	2,79	3,14	3,85
14	0,44	0,59	0,79	1,21	1,63	2,25	2,43	2,89	3,26	3,99
15	0,46	0,61	0,81	1,25	1,69	2,33	2,51	2,99	3,36	4,12
16	0,47	0,63	0,84	1,29	1,74	2,40	2,59	3,08	3,47	4,25
17	0,48	0,64	0,86	1,33	1,79	2,47	2,67	3,17	3,57	4,37
18	0,50	0,66	0,89	1,37	1,84	2,54	2,74	3,25	3,67	4,49
19	0,51	0,68	0,91	1,40	1,89	2,60	2,81	3,34	3,76	4,61
20	0,52	0,70	0,93	1,44	1,94	2,67	2,88	3,42	3,85	4,72
21	0,54	0,73	0,96	1,48	1,99	2,73	2,95	3,50	3,94	4,84
22	0,55	0,73	0,98	1,51	2,03	2,79	3,01	3,57	4,03	4,94
23	0,56	0,74	1,00	1,54	2,07	2,85	3,07	3,65	4,12	5,05
24	0,57	0,76	1,02	1,58	2,12	2,91	3,14	3,72	4,20	5,15
25	0,58	0,77	1,04	1,61	2,16	2,97	3,20	3,80	4,28	5,25



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## Orchard sprayer calibration process

Objective **V (l/ha)** Distribution according canopy



### Parameters (measured)

Row spacing [**r**] (m)  
Forward speed [**v**] (km/h)  
Tree height [**h**] (m)  
Tree width [**w**] (m)

### Parameters (calculated)

Nozzle type  
Nozzle number [**n**]  
Nozzle orientation  
Nozzle flow rate [**q**] (l/min)  
Total flow rate [**Q**] (l/min)  
Working pressure (bar)  
Air flow rate [**A**] (m<sup>3</sup>/h)

$$Q \text{ (l/min)} = \frac{V \text{ (l/ha)} \times a \text{ (m)} \times v \text{ (km/h)}}{600} \quad A \text{ (m}^3\text{/h)} = \frac{h \text{ (m)} \times r \text{ (m)} \times v \text{ (km/h)} \times 1000}{K \approx (2-3)}$$



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## Example for uniform orchard calibration

Volume 600 l/ha – 4 km/h – 4 m – 16 nozzles

$$\text{Flow rate (l/min)} = \frac{\text{Volume (l/ha)} \times w \text{ (m)} \times \text{Fwd. speed (km/h)}}{600}$$

$$\text{Flow rate (l/min)} = \frac{600 \text{ l/ha} \times 4 \text{ m} \times 4 \text{ km/h}}{600} = 16 \text{ l/min}$$



$$\frac{16 \text{ l/min}}{16 \text{ nozzles}} = 1 \text{ l/min}$$



Nozzle selection on catalogue



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## Results

Boquilla	Caudal (litros por minuto)										
	Presión de trabajo (bar)										
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
lila	0.37	0.40	0.43	0.45	0.48	0.51	0.53	0.55	0.57	0.59	0.61
marrón	0.48	0.52	0.56	0.59	0.62	0.65	0.69	0.71	0.74	0.77	0.78
amarilla	0.76	0.81	0.87	0.92	0.97	1.02	1.07	1.11	1.15	1.19	1.23
naranja	0.98	1.06	1.14	1.21	1.28	1.34	1.40	1.46	1.51	1.57	1.62
roja	1.39	1.51	1.62	1.72	1.82	1.91	1.99	2.07	2.15	2.22	2.30



- ✓ 600 l/ha
- ✓ 4 km/h
- ✓ 4 m (working width)
- ✓ 16 nozzles ATR yellow
- ✓ 10 bar

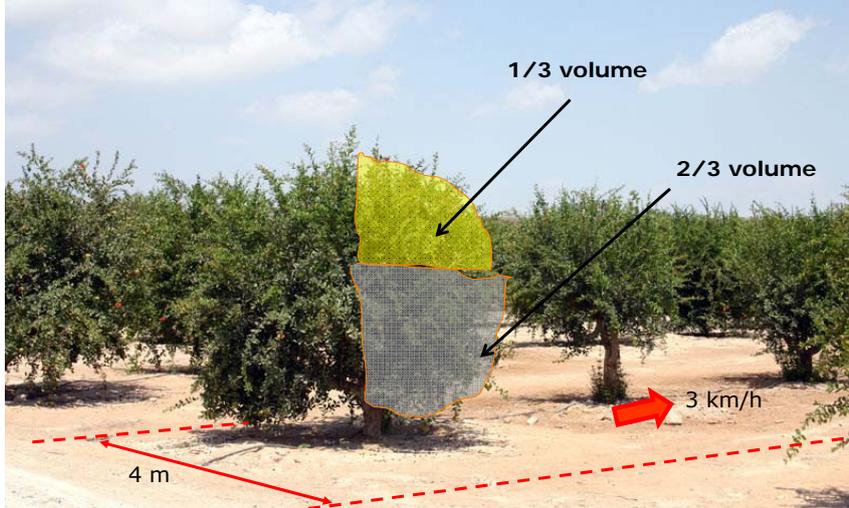


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## Example for non uniform canopy distribution



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## Example for non uniform canopy distribution

Application rate 800 l/ha – 4 km/h – 4 m – 16 nozzles



1/3 volume with 3 nozzles

2/3 volume with 5 nozzles

16 nozzles (8 + 8)



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$$\text{Flow rate (l/min)} = \frac{800 \text{ l/ha} \times 4 \text{ m} \times 4 \text{ km/h}}{600} = 21.3 \text{ l/min}$$



10.6 l/min  $\times$  1/3 = 3.5 l/min

3.5/3 nozzles = **1.18 l/min**

10.6 l/min  $\times$  2/3 = 7 l/min

7/5 nozzles = **1.4 l/min**



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Caudal (litros por minuto)											
Boquilla	Presión de trabajo (bar)										
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
lila	0.37	0.40	0.43	0.45	0.48	0.50	0.53	0.55	0.57	0.59	0.61
marrón	0.48	0.52	0.56	0.59	0.62	0.66	0.69	0.71	0.74	0.77	0.78
amarilla	0.74	0.81	0.87	0.92	0.97	1.02	1.07	1.11	1.15	1.19	1.23
naranja	0.98	1.06	1.14	1.21	1.28	1.34	1.40	1.46	1.51	1.57	1.62
roja	1.39	1.51	1.62	1.72	1.82	1.91	1.99	2.07	2.15	2.22	2.30


$1.11 \times 3 = 3.33 \text{ l/min}$   
 $1.46 \times 5 = 7.30 \text{ l/min}$   
 $10.63 \text{ l/min} \rightarrow 797 \text{ l/ha}$


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## Air flow adjustment: objective the canopy



**TRACTOR**

- RPM
- Tractor gear





**SPRAYER**

- Transmission gear
- Propeller blade setting
- Section air outlets






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### How to calculate the air needs

$$\text{Air Volume [m}^3/\text{h]} = \frac{\text{Tree height [m]} \times \text{Row spacing [m]} \times \text{Fwd. Speed [km/h]} \times 1000}{K \approx (2-3)}$$

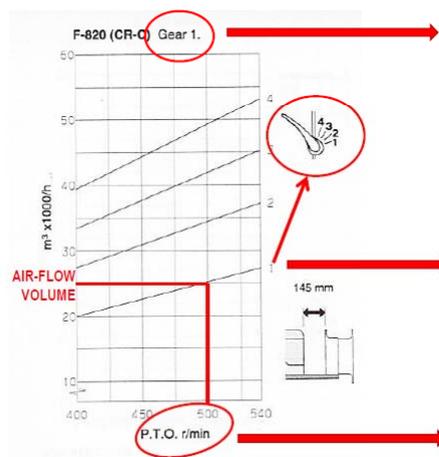


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### Adjustment of air settings



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**Adjustment according canopy structure implies:**

*Adequate selection of air flow characteristics (velocity, air flow rate,...)  
Precise orientation of air outlets*

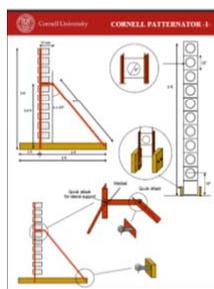


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**The user's opinion... the most important "impact factor"**



**Using Simple Technology To Improve Spray Deposition and Reduce Drift at Dalrymple Vineyards**

Bill Dalrymple  
Dalrymple Farms, Ovid, NY

*Reprinted from Sustainable Viticulture in the Northeast, Issue 5*



I first saw Andrew Landers demonstrate his spray patterator at a field day demonstration in 2004. It inspired me to build my own. The unit I built cost me less than \$50, and as you can see is made mostly out of old window screens I had laying around. Each screen has a channel in the bottom that funnels the water into the seven gallon-sized jugs, so I can run my sprayer for 15 minutes and find out how evenly the water is being distributed in the canopy.

When I first tried it out with my standard sprayer settings, it was throwing spray way up to the top, which obviously wasn't making it into the vine canopy. I was able to change the direction that nozzles were pointing to adjust for the direction of air coming out of the fan - downward

canopy, instead of having half of it shoot into the air. It greatly reduced drift.

I worked with Andrew and Emilio Gil on using the "Dosavina" program on my farm. It uses vine dimensions, growth stage, spray material, variety, and spray conditions to calculate an optimum amount of water to deliver per acre. Early in the season, I was able to mix my fungicides in the appropriate concentration for 50 GPA, but actually apply much lower volume - down to as low as 17 GPA in some cases. I feel we got the same coverage while applying much less material per acre. We didn't need so much water to cover the relatively small leaf area present before bloom, and we figure we've saved around \$2000 - \$3000 on spray materials annually on our farm.



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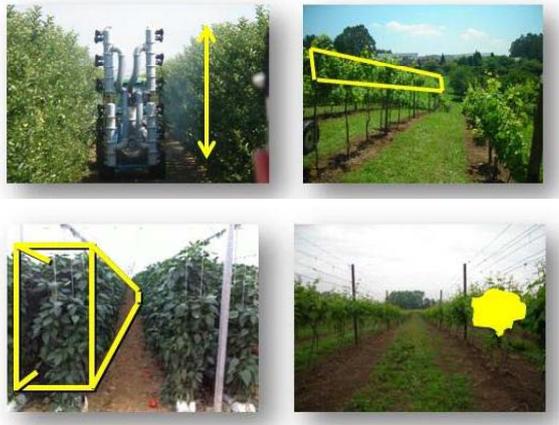


Importance of calibration  
Calibration procedure  
**Dose expression alternatives**  
Tools for an easy calibration  
Sprayer maintenance

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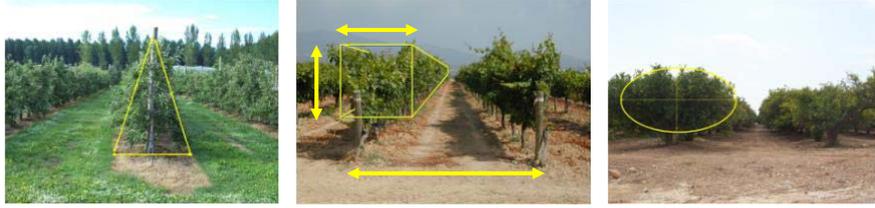
**Adapted dose (volume) to canopy characteristics**  
**The challenge**



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## The TRV concept



$$\text{TRV [m}^3/\text{ha]} = \frac{\text{Height [m]} \times \text{Width [m]} \times 10000}{\text{Row distance [m]}}$$

$$\text{Volume [l/ha]} = \text{TRV [m}^3/\text{ha]} \times i \text{ [l/m}^3\text{]}$$

*Dosage des fongicides en fonction du volume de la vigne*

[www.agrometeo.ch](http://www.agrometeo.ch)

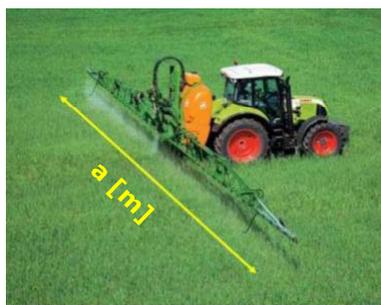


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## Leaf Wall Area (LWA) concept



$$\text{Volume [l/ha]} = \frac{\text{Flow rate [l/min]} \times 600}{a \text{ [m]} \times \text{Fwd. Speed [km/h]}}$$



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## Leaf Wall Area (LWA) concept



Row distance (m)	Row length/ha (m)	Spray time/ha (min)	Spray volume (L/ha)	Leaf wall area, both sides (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	Spray volume (L/10,000 m <sup>2</sup> LWA) <sup>a</sup>
1.7	5.800	58	421	6.960	605
1.8	5.500	55	400	6.600	606
2.0	5.000	50	363	6.000	605
2.2	4.500	45	327	5.400	605
3.0	3.000	30	218	3.600	605



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## Tree Fruits Dose Adjustment Discussion Group Meeting

Wageningen, the Netherlands, September 29, 2009



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### OBJECTIVES

- recognition of the target
- overview of different pome fruit structures in Europe
  - depending on country
  - depending on orchard type
- evaluation of variability within the countries and across Europe
- considering possibility of harmonisation of dose rate expression and adjustment







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## Tree fruit dose adjustment group meeting Conclusions

1. Maximum **product amount per ha** ground surface per application (kg or l product/ha/spray) and **maximum total product amount per ha** ground surface **per season** (kg or l product/ha/season) should be specified on the labels of all products.
2. The need to move to **another expression method other than concentration**, (with or without a minimum or maximum water volume), given that growers do not generally apply PPP's as high volume applications was agreed. It was agreed that labels should advise on the range of water volumes to be used.
3. Need to gather and provide comprehensive **information of the structures** being treated in efficacy and residue trials, including growth stage, tree row height, crown height, tree row width, tree row spacing and canopy area density.
4. Three choices were therefore deemed suitable; **dose /ha** ground area, **dose/ ha Leaf Wall Area** and **dose /ha at a given Tree Row Volume**. Industry unanimously preferred the **Leaf Wall Area** expression method.



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## Pesticide Adjustment to the Crop Environment (PACE)

http://piwrc.co.uk/DoseAdjustmentOrig.htm

**Pocket dose adjustment calculator**

1. Set farm reference sprayer  
standards: UK Apple GA ⓘ  
row-spacing: 3.5 (m)  
tree-height: 3.0 (m)  
nozzles: 24

2. Assess the need to spray and select pesticide  
pesticide: AO All other products  
done

3. Assess whether sprayer adjustment is appropriate  
done

4. Adjust sprayer for canopy density  
growth-stage: Post-blossom Full leaf  
branch-density: Std  
row-spacing: 3.5 (m)

5. Adjust sprayer for tree height  
nozzles: 24  
tree-height: 3.0 (m)

6. Results of sprayer adjustment  
output values: Automatic  
plot tank pump nozzle dose rate  
100

**PACE Pesticide dose adjustment for orchards**

1. Set farm reference sprayer  
fruit-standard: pome-fruit  
row-spacing: 3.5 (m)  
tree-height: 3 (m)  
nozzles: 16

2. Assess the need to spray and select pesticide  
pesticide-type: all other products  
done

3. Assess whether sprayer adjustment is appropriate  
done

4. Adjust sprayer for canopy density  
growth-stage: post-blossom-full-leaf  
branch-number: std  
row-spacing: 3.2 (m)

5. Adjust sprayer for height  
nozzles: 16  
tree-height: 3 (m)

6. Results of sprayer adjustment  
records: automatic  
output mode: automatic  
select edit orchard tank pump nozz open dose ppp water  
1 d i name? 100 83 100 16 100 91 91  
Efficacy may be reduced.

www.pace.piwrc.co.uk/DoseAdjustment2.htm



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## European Methods of Label Dose Rate Expression

### Ground-Area (GA) Dose Rate

- The amount of applied product per unit ground area
- Liters/ha of ground area
- Parapet 75 WDG registered in the UK by Dow

### Leaf-Wall-Area (LWA) Dose Rate

- The amount of applied product per unit leaf-wall area
- Liters/ha of leaf wall area
- Steward registered in Belgium by DuPont

### Canopy-Volume (CV) Dose Rate

- The amount of applied product per unit canopy volume
- Liters/ha of ground area and 1 meter crown height
- Insegar registered in Germany by Syngenta

### Tree-Row-Volume (TRV) Dose Rate

- The amount of applied product per unit ground area of a given TRV
- Liters/ha of ground area for a tree volume of 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ha
- Stroby registered in Switzerland by BASF

### Row-Length (RL) Dose Rate

- Amount of applied product per unit tree row length of canopy
- Liters/100 meters row length
- Calypso SC 480 registered in Norway by Bayer



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Importance of calibration

Calibration procedure

Dose expression alternatives

**Tools for an easy calibration**

Sprayer maintenance





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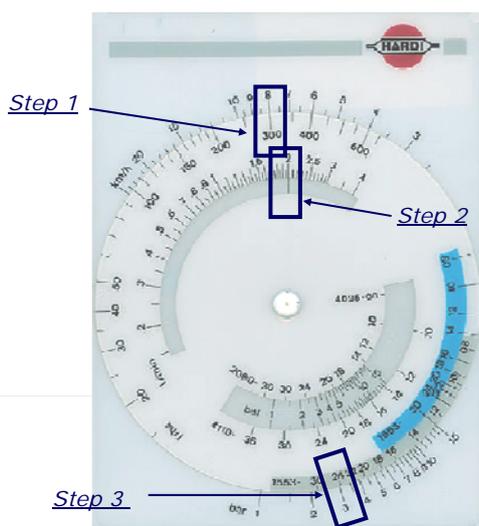


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### Calibration tools



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### On-line tools for sprayer calibration

www.agrotop.com/en/nozzle-calculator

www.hardi-international.com

www.spray.com/services

www.albuz-spray.com

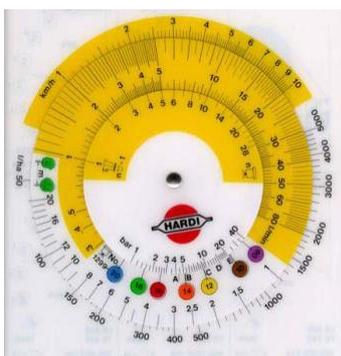


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## Manitenance of the sprayer

- ✓ Damaged or wear nozzles
- ✓ Losses on hoses/pipes
- ✓ Correct functioning of the pump
- ✓ Check nozzle flow rate
- ✓ Filters
- ✓ PTO and fan
- ✓ General cleaning









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