



Using the right amount of pesticide spray

It is always best to try to avoid using pesticides if you can. But if you do decide to use a pesticide, make sure you use the right amount. If you spray too much, you might harm the plants and poison the soil and water. If you use too little, you will not kill the pests, and they may quickly become resistant to the pesticide and return to the field in even greater numbers.

By using the right amount of pesticide, you should be able to:

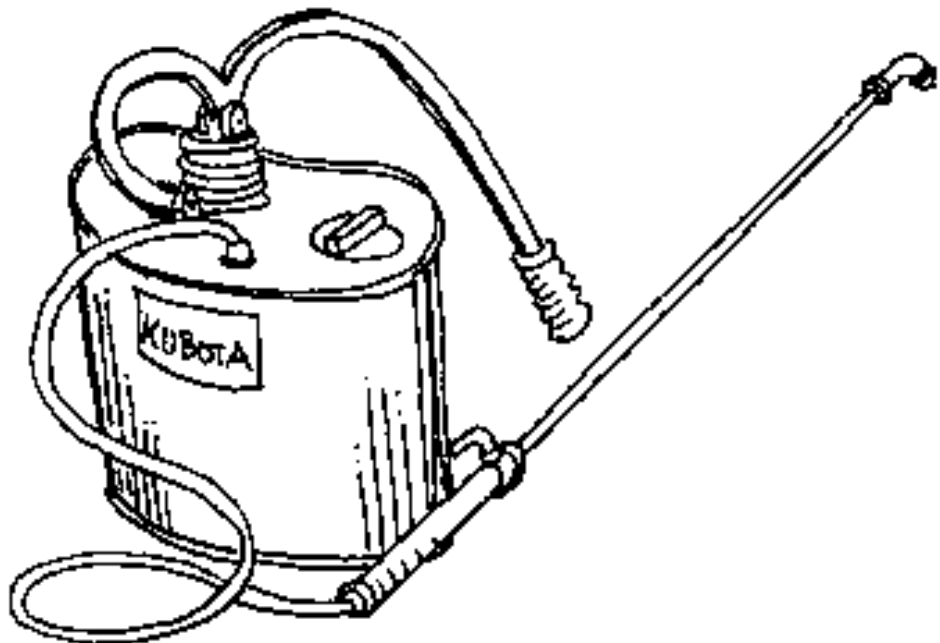
- Control the pest.
- Avoid using too much (or too little) pesticide.
- Save money.

The amount of pesticide to use depends on the size of the sprayer, the type of pesticide, the type of the crop, and the person spraying.

Working out the right amount of pesticide needs some simple arithmetic. Use a calculator (if you have one) or a pencil and paper. Check your calculations twice to make sure you have not made a mistake.

What you will need

- Pesticide (you will need to read the label on the bottle).
- The sprayer you want to use.
- Bottle to measure the amount of pesticide. You can use a LIPO VITAN-D bottle (this holds 100 cc of liquid).
- Funnel to pour pesticide.
- Measuring stick or tape to measure the area sprayed.
- Calculator or pencil and paper.

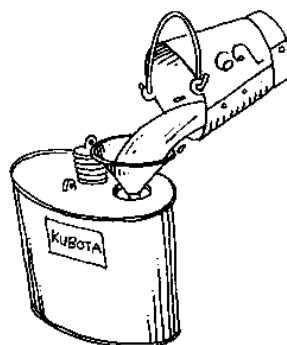


What to do

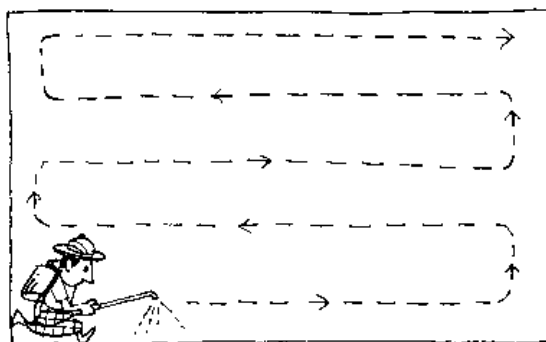
How many tankfuls per acre?

Work out how many tankfuls you need to spray an acre of your crop. This will depend on the size of the sprayer tank, the person doing the spraying, and the size of the plants.

1. Fill the sprayer tank right up with water.



2. Beginning at one corner of the field, spray the crop evenly until the tank is empty.



3. Measure the area you have sprayed with this tankful:

Area = length of area sprayed x width of area sprayed

Example: 200 feet x 40 feet
= 8000 square feet

4. Calculate the fraction of an acre you have sprayed.

There are 43650 (about 40,000) square feet in an acre.

Example: 8000 sq feet / 40000 sq feet
= about 0.2 acre
= 1/5 acre

5. Calculate how many sprayer tanks you would need to cover a whole acre.

Example: 1 tank = 1/5 acre
5 tanks = 1 acre



Note: many farmers can estimate areas of land quite accurately, so they may not need to do these calculations.

How much pesticide per tankful?

Work out how much pesticide you need for each sprayer load.

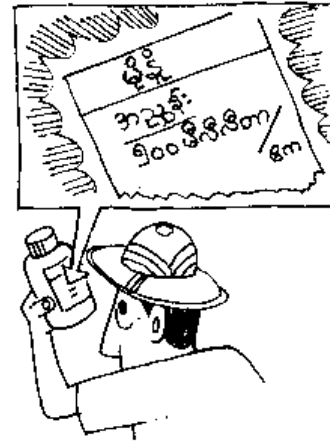
6. Check the pesticide label and find the recommended dosage for one acre.

Example: 500 cc of pesticide per acre

7. Divide the recommended dosage on the label by the number of sprayer tanks per acre (you calculated this in step 5 above)

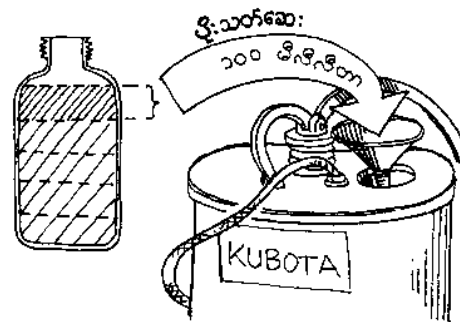
Example: 500 cc / 5 tanks per acre
= 100 cc per tank

8. The answer (100 cc in our example) will be amount of pesticide you should use in one sprayer tank.



Mixing the pesticide

9. Fill the sprayer tank half full of water.
10. Measure the correct amount of pesticide using a LIPO bottle. Pour the pesticide very carefully using a funnel to make sure you do not spill it or get it on your hands or clothes.
11. Replace the lid on the pesticide bottle and put it and the measuring bottle in a safe place, away from animals and children.



12. Fill up the tank with more water.

13. Begin spraying the field.

