

Protecting pollinators:

Best management practices for foliar application



- **Always read the pesticide label and follow the label instructions.**
- **If the label indicates that the product may be toxic to bees:**
 - Be aware of hive locations.
 - Notify nearby beekeepers of plans to spray.
 - Avoid spraying when the crops (or weeds) are in bloom.
 - Spray in the early morning or evening when bees are less likely to be foraging.
- **Minimize spray drift:**
 - Check the weather forecast before application and be mindful of changing weather conditions during application in order to minimize drift.
 - Spray when temperatures are cool and/or humidity is high.
 - Do not spray in situations where temperature inversions may occur.
 - Spray when wind is blowing away from hives.
 - Use a low drift nozzle if possible and calibrate spray equipment regularly.
 - Use a medium-to-coarse droplet size if possible.
 - Install cones or shrouds on field sprayers to reduce off-field movement.
 - For air-blast sprayers, consider deflectors or turn off nozzles that are off target.
 - For aerial applications, ensure maximum boom width does not exceed 65 per cent of the wingspan.
 - Incorporate spray drift reduction agents into spray mixes to ensure consistent droplet size and on-target application.
- **Treat only the target area:**
 - Follow the buffer zone indicated on the label.
 - Shut off sprayers when turning at field ends, near large puddles or water sources, or near other environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Shut off nozzles if there are gaps in the crops.
- **Be mindful of the locations of bee-attractive forage close to the area you are treating. Just because the crop you are spraying isn't attractive to bees, doesn't mean bees aren't present.**

The BeeConnected app connects registered beekeepers with registered farmers and custom applicators, enabling two-way communication on the location of hives and anticipated pesticide application activities. For more information please visit www.beeconnected.ca.

For more information on pollinator health and best management practices, please visit www.croplife.ca.