CropLife CANADA



Can I spray pesticides with a drone?

Before loading a pesticide into a drone, also known as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), confirm the answer to all four questions below.

Question 1

Do the pilot and if required, visual observer hold the required **Transport Canada certificates?**



☑ Yes ☐ No

Is the **RPAS properly registered?**



☑ Yes ☐ No

Question 2

Confirm that the pesticide label allows use with an RPAS:

- It does **NOT** state **"DO NOT apply by air"** or **"DO NOT apply by RPAS"**
- Aerial application or RPAS application is permitted
- Does not have closed cab requirements



☑ Yes ☐ No

⚠ If NO to any of these questions, you **cannot** use a drone to apply pesticides.

Question 3

Do you hold the appropriate **certification, registration or training from your province or territory**, if required?



☑ Yes ☐ No

Question 4

Can all aerial label directions be followed without deviation including but not limited to **spray volume, application rate, droplet size, spray buffer zones, and handling requirements closed system or cab?**

☑ Yes ☐ No

What is an RPAS?

A Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), also known as a drone, is an unmanned aircraft that is operated remotely by a pilot on the ground, along with the equipment needed to control it.

Always follow the pesticide label. The most current registered label is the final authority. Failure to follow the label is contrary to the Pest Control Products Act.

Drone Pesticide Application Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guide

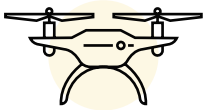
Always read and follow label directions.

Who needs PPE?

ALL individuals involved in pesticide application tasks must wear the minimum PPE required on the label. This includes:



Drone pilot



Anyone handling the RPAS during battery changes, cleaning, maintenance, and transport



Initial and subsequent mixing and loading pesticides



Observers and people working near application area

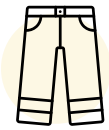
⚠ A drone that has applied pesticides is a **point of exposure**, ensure you are wearing required PPE anytime you are handling the drone.

What is the minimum PPE required?

All pesticide products have a minimum PPE that applies to all activities. This includes wearing:



Long-sleeved shirt



Long pants



Chemical resistant gloves



Socks and shoes

⚠ If the label requires **additional PPE or limits the amount of pesticide handled per day, those requirements must also be followed.**

Follow PPE requirements

The drone pilot, visual observers, and all other crew members must follow the PPE and safety measures of **ground application on the label.** If the product is registered **only for aerial application**, the PPE requirements for aerial application must be followed instead or **if the label mentions RPAS**, all crew members must follow the PPE specified on the label.

