



Sprayer Technology Initiatives

The sprayer technology initiatives are aimed at helping growers optimize their sprayer output, distribution and efficiency through clinics and on-farm testing. Program activities vary across the country based on different production practices and specific needs of the various industry sectors.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

An on-farm sprayer calibration program was developed in 2005 in partnership with government and industry stakeholders and is administered through the CropLife Canada Atlantic Provincial Council.

Farmers can schedule an in season, on-farm appointment with an agricultural engineer to review their sprayer, its mechanics, nozzles and to calibrate the sprayer, resulting in a “certified” sprayer that enhances its accuracy and efficiency when spraying crops. In some instances, growers who engage in production contracts are required to show documentation to satisfy food safety audits that their sprayers are accurately calibrated. The program is predominantly focused on boom sprayers in the potato growing regions of the Atlantic Provinces.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

CropLife Canada partners with various industry and government stakeholders to deliver several hands-on workshops during Crop Production Week. Industry experts discuss and provide hands-on training sessions focused on precision crop protection product application with emphasis on accuracy, uniformity, water volume and boom height with the newest technology available. The workshops are full-day sessions and are widely attended.

100 to 150 sprayers are certified each year.



ONTARIO

Training programs are delivered to farmers focusing on both boom and airblast sprayers:

Boom sprayers

Boom sprayer set-up, maintenance and calibration training began in 2007 and is provided to farmers and custom applicators in a hands-on classroom style format. The training is offered by CropLife Canada in partnership with government, farmers and retailers with funding provided by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. The program consists of a half-day interactive workshop with an experienced instructor. The program runs annually at various locations across the province.

Airblast sprayers

Airblast sprayers are commonly used in the application of crop protection products in the vineyard and tree crop sectors of the horticulture industry. The airblast sprayer program “*Airblast 101*” was developed in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and is focused on providing growers with a hands-on understanding of various sprayer application dynamics including calibration, product distribution, nozzle selection and maintenance. The program consists of a half-day workshop followed by an on-farm OMAFRA-led crop adapted sprayer calibration demonstration in-season.

This program is part of a three-year pilot program initiated in 2011 to determine the need for this type of training for growers in the horticulture industry, both in Ontario and in other regions of the country.