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) and in bloom.
  - Spray in the evening when bees are less likely to be foraging.
  - Avoid spraying during bloom, but if required spray in the evening when bees are less likely to be foraging (if use pattern is permitted on the label) and consider removing flowers before application.
- **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.
  - Use a low drift nozzle if possible and calibrate spray equipment regularly.
  - Use a medium-to-coarse droplet size if possible.
  - For air-blast sprayers, consider deflectors or turn off nozzles that are off target.
  - Install cones or shrouds on field sprayers to reduce off-field movement.
  - For aerial applications, ensure maximum boom width does not exceed 65 per cent of the wingspan.
  - Consider incorporating a spray drift reduction agents into spray mixes if applicable. 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.**

For more information on pollinator health and best management practices, please visit Health Canada's pollinator protection page.

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