



## Drone Use for Pesticide Application in Canada: Current Regulations and Future Outlook

Drones are becoming valuable tools in agriculture. From scouting and seeding to nutrient application, drone technology is advancing quickly. But what's the status when it comes to using drones for pesticide application in Canada?

### Is pesticide application by drone allowed on crops?

At this time, no pesticides are registered for in-crop use by drone in Canada. Pesticide application by drone is regulated jointly by Transport Canada (drone operation and certification) and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) (product registration and use conditions).

For a pesticide to be applied by drone for in-crop use, the pesticide label must explicitly state it can be used with a **Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)**. Always verify this before making application decisions or agronomic recommendations. If RPAS is not stated on the label, drone application is not allowed—even if the product permits traditional aerial application.

Keep it Clean [spray drone article](#) provides guidance to Canadian farmers and agronomists to make informed decisions that align with Canadian regulations and help maintain access to export markets.

### What's on the horizon for drone pesticide application in-crops?

PMRA is working with pesticide companies to revise product labels for drone use and is engaging with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and international stakeholders to develop a common understanding of pesticide drone application. Pesticide companies and the government are actively generating data, such as drift, residues and worker exposure data to inform regulatory decisions for crop drone spraying.

### Stay informed

The regulatory landscape around spray drones is evolving. For now, understanding the label—and the limits of drone use—is critical for staying compliant and protecting your business and your customers. For more information, check out the resources below.

- Keep it Clean [Spray drones are not currently permitted for field crop applications of pesticides](#)
- Health Canada [Pesticide application by drones' fact sheet](#)
- Health Canada [Information Note Regarding the Use of Drones when Applying Pesticides](#)
- Transport Canada [Drone safety webpage, including information on the rules of flying, pilot licensing and registering your drone](#)
- Sprayers 101 [Drone Spraying in Canadian Agriculture \(up to 2024\)](#)