

## Protecting Pollinators - Best Management Practices for Foliar Application



### Minimizing Spray Drift:

- Check the weather forecast before application and be mindful of changing conditions during application 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-course 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% percent of the wingspan.
- Incorporate spray drift reduction agents into spray mixes to ensure consistent droplet size and on-target application.

### Talk to hive owners

Share your pest management plans with honey producers in the area. Armed with this information, beekeepers can then reduce exposure by moving or covering their hives during spray applications.

### Always follow the pesticide label

Use the recommended rate and never exceed the maximum application rate, avoid drift of sprays and dusts, and do not apply in windy conditions above wind speeds specified on the label or when there is a danger of drift onto non-target areas. Use drift-reduction application equipment that is properly maintained and calibrated.

**Apply insecticides in late evening, night or early morning while bees are not foraging (generally between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.)** Evening applications are less hazardous to bees than early morning applications. Warm days and nights can extend the foraging period; therefore applications may be necessary later in the evening or earlier in the morning under unusually warm conditions.

### Apply pesticides conservatively

(follow labels and apply only when truly needed and thresholds are met). When spraying fields, consider spot spraying, or only applying pesticides to infested areas.

### Integrated Pest Management

Growers should follow recommended economic thresholds and Extension recommendations to guide pest management decisions and consider multiple strategies for control that include nonchemical options (e.g., resistant varieties, cultural practices).

### Avoid spraying when the crops (or weeds) are in bloom

### Do not apply insecticides when cool temperatures are expected after treatment

Residues will remain toxic to bees for a much longer time under cool conditions.

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Report suspected pollinator pesticide poisonings:  
Contact Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency at  
1-800-267-6315.

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