



SPRAYING ON KIWIFRUIT ORCHARDS

Coming into spring, chances are you'll see sprays being applied on kiwifruit orchards. We want to be good neighbours and the kiwifruit industry has developed best practice for applying agrichemicals and fertilisers.

The kiwifruit spraying season ramps up from early August and spray contractors and growers will be out applying agrichemicals and fertilisers to improve yield and quality on orchards.

Hydrogen cyanamide (often referred to by the brand name Hi-Cane) is widely used in the kiwifruit industry in spring to promote budbreak and improve yield.

Growers and their spray contractors are responsible for keeping sprays on the orchard and not allowing them to drift on to neighbouring properties. Here are the steps growers must take when applying hydrogen cyanamide.

Steps growers must take

- 1. Compulsory low-drift technology** - air inclusion (AI) nozzles and use of adjuvants to reduce spray drift
- 2. Notify neighbours** - notify neighbours within 50m at least 12 hours before spraying
- 3. Display signs** - "spraying in progress" signs must be displayed at orchard entrance before spraying starts and removed when it's safe to enter the orchard again. Other orange signs state the agrichemical being used as well as the contact details of the applicator
- 4. Check wind conditions** - sprays should not be applied if wind conditions are more than a slight breeze towards neighbours
- 5. Effective shelter** - orchards should have shelter on boundaries, especially road frontages. If there is no shelter or gaps in the shelter, a no-spray buffer of 30 metres should be used
- 6. Special care with sensitive areas** - applicators must take special care around roads, walkways, schools to avoid affecting school children, rural posties, dog walkers etc

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Using this plastic bag

The yellow plastic bag which came with this flyer should be used to cover your letterbox if spraying is underway on or near your property. Please cover your letterbox with this bag before spraying starts on your property or if you're notified that spraying is underway on a neighbouring property.

This lets your rural postie know to keep away so make sure you remove it after spraying is finished to let them know they can resume delivery. This is not a substitute for the legal requirement for signage on orchards.

Report bad spraying

The kiwifruit industry won't accept bad spraying practices - this reflect poorly on the responsible actions of the vast majority of growers and spray operators. We're keen to clamp down on anyone who lets the rest of us down.

We encourage members of the public to lodge any spray complaints by calling the NZ Kiwifruit Growers (NZKGI) hotline on 0800 232 505 or the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 0800 884 883. Complaints will be investigated and may result in an infringement fine or prosecution.

An action group has been working since 2009 with representation from Zespri, NZKGI, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, community groups and other parties to address these issues. This has resulted in best practice education for growers and contractors, new technologies to reduce spray drift, improved neighbour notification and better communications between industry and the community.

