Tree Spraying

Safe Operating Procedures | Almond farms | English transcript

General information only. Your host will provide the exact site procedure, machine instructions, PPE requirements and practical training before you start work. This video does not authorise equipment operation.

0:04 Before you start

This video provides general information for workers on almond farms. Before you start work, your host employer will explain the exact safe operating procedure, machine instructions and personal protective equipment required at your site. This video supports training. It does not replace practical training, assessment, supervisor sign-off or a training record. English is the authoritative version.

0:39 Step 1

Training/Safety

Potential risk.

Workers unsure of the process may lead to unwanted events which may result in injury, fatality or damage to equipment

Risk treatment.

At the end of this training which includes the practical component if you are unsure of the process do not proceed contact your Supervisor and the Orchard Manager immediately

If at any time during this process you feel unsafe you are authorised and expected to stop

Contact your Supervisor and the Orchard Manager immediately

1:21 Step 2

Pre-start/safety meeting

Potential risk.

Employees not aware of traffic management requirements may lead to serious collision resulting in injury to operator and damage to equipment

Poor communication when machinery is moved from block to block

Employees with language barriers may not understand traffic management plans

Employees taking short cuts through headlands may lead to collisions resulting in injury to employees and damage to equipment

Risk treatment.

Employees MUST attend morning pre-starts in front of the orchard activity board

host employer management MUST communicate daily work plan and safety information which includes but not limited to traffic management

Team supervisors MUST reiterate daily work plan and safety matters their teams

If there are language barriers an interpreter MUST be used to communicate information

If traffic management changes throughout the day host employer management and supervisors are responsible for communicating changes to employees and updating the orchard activity board

2:37 Step 3

Check weather conditions with supervisor for suitability and safety.

Potential risk.

Spray drifting on to fellow workers, native vegetation, native vegetation buffer zones and neighbouring properties.

Risk treatment.

Discuss weather conditions, both current and forecast, with supervisor and determine suitability to carry out procedure.

Ensure that no other workers are in close proximity to work area.

Continually monitor for any changes in weather conditions.

Recording weather conditions is a legal requirement

3:19 Step 4

Carry out pre start check on sprayer and tractor

Potential risk.

Breakdown of machinery. Injuries to operator of plant.

Operators being caught by

unguarded shafts.

Control cables are not connected to tractor and are located against tractor wheels, catch points and drag points.

Worker breathing contaminated air.

Risk treatment.

Worker to use current pre-start check list and have maintenance carried out if required.

Have guards replaced if missing or broken.

Check Harness

Fit correct filter to tractor air conditioner.

4:02 Step 5

Confirm calibration of spray unit for correct application of spray.

Potential risk.

Incorrect application of spray to orchard trees.

Spraying outside selected area

Risk treatment.

Discuss with maintenance or supervisor and refer to technical calibration sheets provided.

Workers to have current and recognized industry qualifications.

Do a tree count with every first tank for the shift to confirm calibration and record on spray sheet.

Report any issues to maintenance or management

4:43 Step 6

Commence filling spray tank with water and chemical

Potential risk.

Workers spilling chemicals.

Workers being exposed to chemicals due to incorrect fitting respirators or face masks.

Incorrect fitting respirators or face masks due to facial hair

Damage to eyes from chemicals.

Workers receiving burns from chemicals.

Incorrect measurements being poured into tank

Mixing more than required and wasting chemical

Risk treatment.

Workers to use required PPE specified in the safety data sheet (SDS) which include chemical suits, Correct fitting respirator and face masks that fully seal,safety glasses, long chemical gloves.

Emergency shower and hand wash to be fully operational.

Ensure chemical is added in the correct mixing sequence

Use correct measuring devices

Do not mix more than required to fill your tank

5:48 Step 7

Continue agitation of tank contents whilst filling to correct level.

Potential risk.

Overfilling of spray tank.

Spillage from filling lines whilst disconnecting hoses.

Workers poisoned by chemicals.

Damage to eyes from chemical.

Burns from chemicals.

Risk treatment.

Workers to maintain vigilance as tank fills.

Workers trained in correct filling procedures.

Workers to use required PPE including chemical suits, breathing masks, face masks, safety glasses, and long chemical gloves.

Workers to wash down gloves and chemical suits with fresh water and thoroughly wash hands and face. Emergency showers and hand wash to be fully operational.

6:38 Step 8

While waiting for the tank tofill, ensure mixing site is clean

Potential risk.

Tripping hazards from hoses, slipping from excess water

Rubbish blowing through the orchard

Containers not being cleaned for drum muster program (triple rinsed)

Risk treatment.

Triple rinse containers and remove lids

Turn all taps off and lay hoses neatly

All drums placed in designated storage areas.

All rubbish should placed in a bin and drums stacked neatly

7:15 Step 9

Travel to spray area.

Potential risk.

Traffic accidents when towing fully loaded spray tank to spraying area. (poor braking and turning)

Risk treatment.

Workers to travel at safe speeds 25kmph when empty, and 15kmph when full/half full.

Workers to safely turn corners at a slow speed below 15 kmph to ensure heavy tank doesn't jack knife tractor.

Workers to be fully aware of the property Traffic Management Plan.

7:51 Step 10

Commence spraying in orchard with correct settings and speed.

Potential risk.

Other workers in area being sprayed.

Damage to irrigation infrastructure in orchard.

Leaks and breaks of connections and hoses whilst operating at correct pressure.

Change in weather conditions.

Risk treatment.

Continually monitor for other workers in the immediate area, use radio to ensure other workers know your whereabouts

Be aware of tree rows with infrastructure sites.

Continually monitor all connections for leaks or breaks.

All issues must be reported immediately to the supervisor as soon as possible

8:39 Step 11

When entering a headland or driving down one stay as far from trees as possible

When approaching end of row to enter headland, slow down and sound horn

Potential risk.

Traffic accidents when towing fully loaded spray tank to spraying area.

Poor braking and turning

Obstructed view due to foliage

Risk treatment.

Sound horn when crossing headland

Announce yourself to known operators in the area

Mark own and check location of other operators on operational map in hub.

Operator in the process of spraying always have right of way

9:21 Step 12

Empty and flush sprayer. Park tractor on firm, level ground, apply park brake

Confirm and sign off Orchard Spray sheet information.

Potential risk.

Worker contact with chemicals

Double application in area

Chemicals left in tank and spray lines.

Risk treatment.

Ensure spray tank and system are flushed with fresh water and left in safe and ready to use state.

Do not leave chemical in your tank overnight

Flushing fresh water through the spray system cleans away built up chemical

Running fresh water through the machine every shift gives the operator the opportunity to check for rate issues, pressure issues, nozzle pattern

10:12 Step 13

Upon completion of task, return tractor to designated parking area

Shutdown and secure tractor.

Perform quick check over machine, report issues that may affect next shift

Potential risk.

Incorrect application of spray to orchard trees.

Workers injured due to equipment failure.

Risk treatment.

Park tractor on firm, even ground.

Apply handbrake.

Check over machine, report issues

10:47 Qualifications and experience

Qualifications and experience.

All employees/ workers must be trained, hold relevant licenses, and be assessed as competent before operating any equipment on host employer sites. there must be safety induction records with the workers' name on the records. where licenses are required a copy of this must be on site file or personal file.

11:15 Duties and responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities.

All employees/ workers must adhere to host employer policies and procedures and report any concerns and incidents immediately to their manager/ supervisor. it is the responsibility of both host employer onsite management and contractor companies to identify language barriers and provide interpreters where required.

11:44 Training required

Training required.

All employees/ workers must have been inducted to the site and deemed competent in relevant Safe Operating Procedure and site traffic management plans. site managers must sign off all Safe Operating Procedure before employees/ worker start work on site or equipment. training should be completed by a competent person or training organization.

12:13 Codes of practice and legislation

Codes of practice and legislation.

All employees/ workers must adhere to codes of practice, standards and guideline, whs and ohs acts and regulations.

12:30 Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant, equipment and PPE.

Job specific protective personal equipment (ppe) must be identified and worn when required (i.e. positive sealed goggles with a strap when using compressed air). PPE is a shared responsibility between your host employer and Orchard Tech. Your host employer will provide the PPE required for your task. If the required PPE has not been supplied, stop work and contact Orchard Tech. workers to wear all outdoor ppe where required – wear positive sealed eye protection, gloves, hat, sunburn cream, steel capped boots, long sleeve shirts and long trousers. hi viz clothing must be worn at all times.

13:26 Maintenance checks

Maintenance checks.

If a vehicle, plant, equipment, or machinery is found to be defective or damaged, it must be tagged with ‘out of service’ tag until repaired and isolation register completed. daily pre-start/ pre-shift checks and post-checks if required are to be completed and recorded in all instances. maintenance teams are responsible for all maintenance on equipment. workers can only undertake maintenance if they have been adequately trained in the relevant process.

14:05 Before work starts

This video provides general information. Before you start work, your host employer will explain the exact procedure and provide practical training for your site. This video does not replace assessment, supervisor sign-off or a training record. If you do not understand something, use the English or talk to your supervisor at the host employer site. The host will provide you with an interpreter.

Orchard Tech · hari@orchardtech.com.au · 0439 32 32 32