

A14. BACKPACK SPRAYER CALIBRATION

No-Math Version:

- Step 1. Mark a calibration plot 18.5 foot wide X 18.5 feet long.
- Step 2. Spray the plot uniformly with water while recording the number of seconds required to spray the plot.
- Step 3. Spray into a bucket for the same number of seconds.
- Step 4. Measure the collected volume of water in ounces.
- Step 5. The number of ounces collected equals the number of gallons per acre the sprayer is delivering.

Hand-held Sprayers:

Hand-held sprayers are used for spot treating weeds or small areas. Spray coverage should be uniform and the foliage of target plants should be wet but the amount of spray solution applied should be limited so that run-off does not occur.

Hand-held sprayers should be calibrated by:

- 1) spraying a known area using water following a standard, reproducible procedure
- 2) measuring the amount of water applied
- 3) calculating gallons per acre (gpa).

For example, 0.75 gallon on 500 sq ft is the same as 65 gallons per acre: $43,560 \text{ sq ft per acre} / 500 \text{ sq ft} \times 0.75 \text{ gallon} = 65 \text{ gpa}$.

The desired rate in lb/A or pt/A can be used to calculate the amount of herbicide to add to the spray solution.

If 3 pt/A is desired: $3 \text{ pt/A} / 65 \text{ gpa} = 0.046 \text{ pt}$ or 0.73 fl oz or 1.5 tbsp/gal of spray solution (16 fl oz = 1 pt, 2 Tbsp = 1 fl oz).

When calibration of a hand-held sprayer is not possible and the herbicide being used is safe to the environment and non-target plants, a volume of 50 to 70 gpa can be assumed. However, the actual volume applied can vary considerably with the type of sprayer, spray pressure, and technique of the applicator, so calibration is strongly encouraged.

Some herbicide labels specify a percent solution for use in hand-held sprayers. The following chart provides mixing instructions to obtain solutions of varying percent concentrations on a volume/volume basis:

Desired solution volume	% concentration of herbicide				
	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	5.0
gallons	Amount of herbicide to add, fl oz				
1	0.6	1.3	1.9	2.6	6.4
2	1.3	2.6	3.8	5.2	12.8
5	3.2	6.4	9.6	12.8	32.0
10	6.4	12.8	19.2	25.6	64.0
100	64.0	128.0	192.0	256.0	640.0
1 pt = 16 fl oz	16 Tbls = 1 cup				
1 Tbls = 3 tsp	1 fl oz = 30 mls				
1 Tbls = 15 ml	1 fl oz = 2 Tbls				