



MEDIA RELEASE
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Have a spray-safe summer

Gardeners spraying for weeds should ensure they get a handle on the basics of safe agrichemicals use, Agcarm says.

At this time of year many gardeners will be noticing weeds which need to be sprayed. "The key to responsible use of agrichemicals is the same whether you own a few square metres or a large farm – get educated," says Agcarm chief executive Mark Ross. "Get advice from local distributors and read labelling information."

Things to consider when spraying include protecting human health, as well as insects, animals and the environment. The simplest way of doing this is following label instructions.

Any safety precautions for using an agrichemical will be identified on the product label. It will tell you how to use the product safely and what personal protective gear is needed. "This is why it is so important to read," says Ross.

"It's always good practice to wear gloves, closed shoes, a long sleeve shirt and long pants, especially when mixing." This guidance is outlined in the Agcarm 'Be Smart, Be Safe' poster, which explains what to wear when using crop protection products.

To protect bees, select short-residual and low-hazard formulations and never spray during daylight hours where bees are foraging and pollinating. Always check nearby for

foraging bees on flowering weeds and eliminate by mowing or other means. If necessary, spray while bees are in the hive.

As well as time of day, adjust your spray programme to weather conditions - when there is a slight breeze, temperature is low and humidity is high. Ideally, spray when the wind speed is between two and 15 km per hour, the temperature is below 25°C and relative humidity is over 40%.

"Agrichemicals can enhance our interaction with our land if used safely and considerately. I urge all land owners to take care and have a spray-safe summer," says Ross.

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About Agcarm

Agcarm is the industry association which represents crop protection, animal health and rural supplier businesses. Agcarm members distribute and sell the majority of veterinary medicines and crop protection products in New Zealand. Agcarm members promote responsible use of products right through the product life cycle, from research to disposal.
