Pesticide Drift Reduction Starts Now

Robert G. Hartzler
Iowa State University, hartzler@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews

Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, Agriculture Commons, and the Plant Pathology Commons

Recommended Citation
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/955

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/.
Pesticide Drift Reduction Starts Now

Abstract
The number of drift complaints in 2007 regarding ground applications of agricultural pesticides received by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship increased by 36 percent compared to 2006, and was nearly double that of 2004.

Keywords
Agronomy

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Plant Pathology
Pesticide Drift Reduction Starts Now

March 12, 2008

Bob Hartzler, Department of Agronomy

The number of drift complaints in 2007 regarding ground applications of agricultural pesticides received by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship increased by 36 percent compared to 2006, and was nearly double that of 2004.

The first step in preventing problems with drift is to develop an effective drift management strategy prior to the spray season. Important considerations include:

- equipping sprayers with appropriate spray nozzles,
- effective use of drift retardants,
- sprayer setup - boom height, operating pressure and driving speed,
- identification of drift sensitive locations (organic production, vineyards or other high value crops, concerned neighbors), and
proper education of personnel operating the sprayers.

While advances in spray technology have improved our ability to keep pesticides on target, successful management of drift ultimately relies on good judgment by the sprayer operator.

By Bob Hartzler is a professor weed science with extension, teaching, and research responsibilities.

Category: Crop Production, Insects and Mites, Pesticide Education

Tags: pesticide drift, spraying

Author: 

Bob Hartzler Professor

Bob Hartzler is a Professor of Agronomy and an Extension Weed Specialist. Hartzler conducts research on weed biology and how it impacts the efficacy of weed management programs in corn and soybean. He also teaches undergraduate classes in weed science and weed iden...