



Application of Agrichemicals

How does the new Tairawhiti Resource Management Plan affect users of agrichemicals?



As growers, farmers, employees or contractors, the Tairawhiti Resource Management Plan ("the Plan") impacts on how you apply Agrichemicals. The Plan endeavours to cater for both the needs of the grower/farmer, to have a viable business operation, and their neighbours, concerned about the negative effects of agrichemical spraying.

Application of agrichemicals is covered by Part C: Region Wide Provisions (C1 – C4) of the Plan. It refers to different scales of agrichemical applications.

- Small-scale application refers to spraying using hand held equipment.
- All other applications are considered to be widespread applications.

Widespread application

Where the widespread application of agrichemicals is on private land, the owner or occupier of the property **must, at the beginning of each calendar year or at least 2 weeks before the first spray of the season**, advise:

- All adjacent land occupiers (and owners where practicable), and
- Any sensitive areas within:
 - 30 metres from the point of discharge for ground based spraying; or
 - 200 metres from the point of discharge for aerial sprayingthat a spray plan is available on request.

Even though it is the property owners' responsibility, contractors should ensure that the notification requirements have been fulfilled in writing to avoid liability.

The spray plan must be prepared in accordance with NZS8409:2004 Appendix M4 and should include:

- The property and crops to be sprayed and the type of chemicals likely to be used during the year or season, and an indication of any agrichemical that may present a specific hazard.
- A plan or map detailing any sensitive areas (e.g. school).
- The approximate times of the year that spraying is likely to occur.

- The equipment, method of application to be used, and application rates.
- The name and contact details of the likely applicator.
- Particular weather conditions which may increase potential spray drift hazard to sensitive areas.
- Where 2,4-D ethyl hexyl ester herbicide is to be applied.

The spray plan **must be provided within 5 working days to any affected person requesting a copy**. That same person can then request that at least 8 hours before spraying they are given details about a spraying event (details of the spray, the applicator, and the date and time of spraying). If an application has not been included in the spray plan, an amended plan will need to be provided at least 8 hours before application.

Agrichemical User Training

- Every person undertaking the application of agrichemicals shall have a qualification, certified in writing that meets the training requirements set out in Appendix H18 of the Plan (Training Requirements for Qualifications to Apply Agrichemicals), or be under the effective supervision of a person who meets those requirements.
- Every contractor undertaking the ground based application of agrichemicals shall also hold a current GROWSAFE: Registered Chemical Applicator Certificate of qualification. Every contractor, employee shall also either hold this qualification or have a qualification, certified in writing that meets the training requirements set out in Appendix H18 of the Plan (Training Requirements for Qualifications to Apply Agrichemicals).
- Every pilot undertaking aerial application of agrichemicals shall hold a current GROWSAFE: Certificate of Qualification Agrichemical Rating, or an equivalent qualification.

Evidence of qualification shall be made available to Council upon request.

Application of fertilisers

The Plan excludes fertilisers from the definition of agrichemicals and is a permitted activity provided the application and/or storage complies with certain standards outlined in the Plan.

Other issues

- Agrichemicals must be applied in accordance with The Management of Agrichemicals (NZS8409:2004).
- Application of Agrichemicals must comply with the requirements specified in the Manufacturer's Instructions.
- The application of widespread agrichemicals shall not occur in winds greater than 15km/hr.
- Signage must be used to indicate spraying is being carried out if near a bus stop on a school bus route. This needs to include the road (10m clearance if on the other side of a shelterbelt, 50m if no shelterbelt).
- Written records of sprays applied must be kept. This includes the addresses of those notified.
- 2,4-D Ethyl Hexyl Ester Herbicide cannot be used if there are sensitive crops or farming systems within 5km. Further considerations of drift needs to be made.

Definition of sensitive areas

Receiving environments in the Gisborne district that are more sensitive to the discharge of contaminants to air than others. These have been identified as being:

1. Residences and places of public and private assembly (including amenity areas) where the discharge may result in a reduction in amenity values or adversely affect human health.
2. Public roads and airports where the discharge may result in a reduction in visibility or otherwise jeopardise the safe and efficient use of this infrastructure.

3. Domestic and community water supplies where the discharge may result in adverse effects on human health.
4. Wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins where the discharge may result in a reduction of the life supporting capacity of water or cause damage to aquatic ecosystems or a loss of natural character.
5. Sensitive crops or farming systems where the discharge may result in damage to crops or animals or jeopardise the ability for people to provide for their economic wellbeing.
6. Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as defined in the Plan post-decisions annotated version July 2000, including areas containing threatened species where the discharge may result in damage to these indigenous species or habitats.
7. The coastal environment, in particular within 200m landward of Mean High Water Springs where the discharge may result in a loss of natural character.
8. Sites of special significance to Tangata Whenua, as identified in the Plan.

Provided all standards and terms for a Permitted Activity have been met, agricultural spray applications can be carried out without having to obtain a resource consent. If you require any further information please contact Council's Environmental Protection team or read the plan on our website.

