Turf Solutions

Tank Cleaning

Tank cleanout is a very important step in the application process. Proper attention to cleanout both before and after application will help to provide quality results.

Even when the sprayer is operated until visibly empty, small amounts of spray solution can remain in the application equipment. When the same application equipment is subsequently used to spray a different area and appropriate cleanout does not occur it may result in damage to that area.

Responsibility for any subsequent plant damage caused by not cleaning or improper cleaning of spray equipment lies with the applicator.

Always follow individual label directions for each product used, as specified by the manufacturer, and wear all recommended and required protective clothing during cleanout operations.

Preparation Of Application Equipment

Good cleanout practice begins BEFORE applying a Plant Protection Product. Some product labels even specify procedures for cleaning equipment prior to starting an application.

Always start with well-maintained, clean application equipment that is free from visible residues or deposits. Any observable residues should be removed by scrubbing with a stiff bristle brush and a mild detergent.

Applying a plant protection product with equipment that has not been properly cleaned can cause trapping or binding of the chemical particles that are very difficult to remove. These trapped particles can “break free” during subsequent applications and possibly cause damage to sensitive plants.

Proper Mixing & Loading Procedures

Mixtures of plant protection products and spray additives should only be used when the combination is approved by the label. This will avoid compatibility problems that can leave insoluble deposits in spray equipment. If there is any question about compatibility, a small jar compatibility test should be done. Place a small amount of each product together in a jar and agitate, leave to settle. If the products do not mix then they are incompatible.

Always add products to the tank in the mixing order specified by the label. If no sequence is indicated, use the order shown below. Each product should be thoroughly dispersed before subsequent products are added.

Recommended Mixing Order

1. Solid formulations (dry flowable and wettable powder)
2. Liquid suspension concentrates
3. Liquid soluble concentrates
4. Emulsifiable concentrates
5. Surfactants
6. Liquid Fertilizers
7. Anti–drift additives (if recommended)

Always provide adequate tank agitation to prevent settling. Avoid excessive agitation that causes undesirable foaming. Thorough mixing is even more important if the water source is acidic or the water temperature is less than 7 degrees Celsius. Both factors tend to slow the dispersion of the products.

Mix only the amount of spray solution that will be needed for the day and spray as soon as possible after mixing. Do not let the spray mixture sit for extended periods of time, as this can result in product settling and/or product degradation. If spray operations must be delayed for a short time, thoroughly reagitate the spray solution before resuming the application.

Procedure for Equipment Cleanout

Follow all label directions specified by the manufacture for the cleanout operation as soon as possible following an application. Postponing cleanout, even overnight, can lead to formation of dried deposits that can be difficult to remove.