

The Scotts Easy Guide:

Calibrating A Sprayer For Drenching Plants With Pesticides



- Ensure compost in pots is moist before attempting to drench. It is important that the pesticide is even throughout compost and non runs to waste.
- Read label for rate of application, e.g. 0.02g pesticide in 100-200ml water per litre of compost.
- Use coarse nozzle.
- Put 1 litre of water in sprayer.
- Time how long it takes to spray 100ml into a measuring cylinder, e.g. 15 seconds.
- Estimate volume of compost in pot, e.g. 14D pot contains 0.9 litres.
- Test how much water is needed to drench 1 litre compost evenly by timing drenching the compost in the pot until water just starts to appear at the base of the pot, e.g. 21 seconds. Reduce this value by 1 second as run-off is not acceptable, e.g. 21 minus 1 = 20 seconds.
- Volume of water drenched in 20 seconds will be $100 \times 15 / 20 = 75\text{ml}$.
- To treat 1000 pots (900 litres of compost) will need $1000 \times 75 / 1000 = 75$ litres of water.
- Pesticide to be added is $0.2 \times 0.9 \times 1000 = 18\text{g}$.
- Add half the water, then dissolve the pesticide, then top up to required level of water calculated above.
- Time the drenching of each pot by a stop watch or counting accurately.

