Sprayer Setup and Calibration Meeting at Rutgers Snyder Farm

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On Thursday June 9, 2011 a grower meeting was held at Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ. The theme was saving money with proper sprayer setup and calibration. Lunch was provided by GrowMark FS, Bloomsbury, NJ and Helena Chemical Co., Woodstown, NJ. Twenty-seven growers were updated on brown marmorated stink bug control and its ramifications for NJ crop insurance claims.

Dr. John Grande, Director of the Rutgers Sndyer Farm, covered sprayer tune-up, nozzles, particle size, and how to get good coverage and control and avoid drift. Dr. Brad Majek, Specialist in Weed Science, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, covered the application techniques and Phil Brown Weed Sprayer setup for improved weed control and (crop) safety.

The group then moved outside for demonstrations

The patternator collects material from various locations from near the soil surface to what would represent the top of the tree.

The collected water (here died blue) visually demostrates the pattern of application from the lowest collector (right) to the highest collector (left).

of air induction nozzles and their ability to control drift with an airblast tower sprayer. The use of Surround™ clay was demonstrated as a visual tool to check sprayer drift and coverage on both full dwarfing and standard size trees. Two Phil Brown weed sprayers were demonstrated in the field with the correct nozzling to get double overlap coverage.

Last but not least, our special guest, Jon Clements, Extension Educator, University of Massachusetts, conducted a special hands on session for air blast sprayer setup and calibration. He utilized specialized equipment (Patterntator, purchased with a grant from EPA Region 1) to evaluate the Synder Farm Rears Airblast Tower sprayer. The topics covered were: (1) measuring the three components of air blast sprayer output/calibration using a sprayer 'test bench'; (2) tractor speed; (3) sprayer pressure; and (4) sprayer nozzle output.

Jon Clements, UMass Extension Educator, conducted the demonstration at Rutgers Snyder Farm.

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MOST COMMON QUESTIONS asked about biodegradable bags.

Will the bags begin to break down while being stored? No, the bags will retain its strength and integrity while properly stored. The breakdown only begins after it is directly exposed to certain environmental conditions such as: soil/landfill, heat/moisture, and sunlight.

Is this process more expensive? Not really, the cost increase is only a few percentage points higher. You will more than make this up with the goodwill you will be conveying to your community and customers.

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