

Shop Talk

Calibrating Backpack Sprayers

Maintaining a constant walking speed is the most important objective when using a backpack or knapsack sprayer. When spraying, either hold the nozzle steady at a constant height and walk back and forth or swing the nozzle in a sweeping, overlapping motion. When making multiple passes in a turf area, overlap the area between the passes for a uniform application.

Calibration of a backpack sprayer for applying chemicals per 1000 FT² may be determined in the following manner. Measure an amount of water and pour it into the sprayer. Next, spray a measured area of exactly 1000 FT² (for example: 20 ft. x 50 ft.). After spraying the area, measure the amount of water remaining in the tank. Subtract the amount of water remaining in the sprayer from the amount with which you started; this difference is the application volume.

- Example:
- A) 4 gallons of water are poured into the backpack sprayer.
 - B) 2 gallons are left in the sprayer after spraying a measured 1000 FT² area.
 - C) 4 gallons - 2 gallons = 2 GAL/1000FT²

