



# BEGA AG *Facts*

## Calibrating A Boomspray

When was the last time you calibrated your boomspray? Do you really know how many litres of water per hectare it's putting out – and if not, how do you know how much herbicide to put in? If you think it's still performing as it was when you bought it up, you might be quite surprised! Boomspray nozzles also wear with use, this changes both their spray pattern & the volume they put out – nozzles do need to be replaced when they start to wear.

If you have never calibrated your boomspray there's a good chance you're wasting money on excess herbicide or getting poorer results from spraying than you should be.

Calibrating a PTO driven boom spray is really quite simple and will only take you about half an hour - its well worth the exercise.

### Anyone can do the sums

There are only three pieces of information you need to collect; time to travel 100m, width of your boom in metres and the volume of water put out by one nozzle during the 100m run.

Follow me through on this and you will see how easy it is.

Pace out and mark 100m. Put the tractor in the gear and revs you'd normally use for spraying and time how long it takes to cover the distance - make a note of this time (say **20 sec.** as an example). Measure the width of your boom in metres – the nozzles will be 50cm apart (say **6m** for our example).

For the final piece of information, with the tractor out of gear, set the PTO going at the same revs it would be running at during spraying and with a jug measure how much water is put out by a single nozzle in 20 seconds (the time it took to travel 100m in our example) - say **1lt** in our case.

Now a bit of simple maths. Multiply the volume you got from one nozzle by the number of nozzles on your boom - so the 6m boom in our example will have 12 nozzles (count each end nozzle as a half). 12 times 1lt equals **12 litres**.

Next, there are 10,000 square metres in a hectare; we covered 600 square metres with the boom **16.67** (ie 16.67 100m runs would cover one hectare). Multiplying this by our output volume across the boom, 12 lt, gives us our output per hectare -  $12 \times 16.67 = 200 \text{ lt. per hectare}$ .

So, if you have a 600 Lt. tank on the boomspray and you want to put out Bromicide at 1.4 Lt. per hectare, in our example you would add 4.2 Lt of Bromicide to every tank and expect to do 3 hectares per load.

The last thing you have to do is wash out Mums' measuring jug & put it back in the kitchen.