

RLF TECHNICAL NOTE

Foliar Application of RLF Products by Drone

Written and Authorised for release by:

Dr Hooshang Nassery,
Head of Technical

Foliar application of liquid fertilisers and pesticides by drone is gaining popularity, since it makes it possible to apply foliar sprays with sensible economics to paddocks that have inaccessible sections for ground spraying, or have tall plants, or that need to be treated in some sections.

In order to reduce spraying cost, the carrier volume should be kept as low as possible.

The dewy condition of leaves allows the spray to be carried out with minimum or no carrier. To check the dew situation, rub the palm or fingers over the leaf surface. If your palm gets wet, there is some 100 to 200 litres of water/hectare on the leaf surfaces.

Most RLF products have an optimum dilution ratio of about 50X, therefore foliar spray in dewy conditions can be applied at 2–4L/h with no dilution under dewy condition. If higher rates, for example 5–8L/ha is to be applied, 2X dilution (i.e. product with equal volume of water) can be applied in a dewy condition.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID LEAF BURN WITH CONCENTRATED FOLIAR APPLICATION:

1. For strongly acidic tank mixes (e.g. pH around 3) that contain metallic trace elements, dissolve 5g calcium nitrate (a teaspoonful) for every litre of water or carrier (this can be ignored if you are using a hard water such as Murray River water).
2. Always use a fine nozzle to spread the foliar over a larger surface area.
3. Always add non-ionic wetter as per rate shown on the label of the wetter to the tank mix.
4. In order to have a good response, apply foliar spray when soil is not dry.
5. Apply foliar fertilisers in the morning when leaves have the highest turgidity and stomata are open.
6. A jar test is required for any tank mix that you are unsure about compatibility.
7. Consult RLF Technical Staff if you intend to mix RLF foliar products with higher concentration of products such as urea and UAN.
8. Do not add trace elements to RLF foliar fertilisers that contain trace elements.

AUTHOR	POSITION
Dr. Hooshang Nassery Plant Physiologist	Head of Global Technical Group Rural Liquid Fertilisers

