

# Dieback Treatment - Spraying

Information prepared by the Dieback Working Group and the Roleystone Dieback Action Group © DWG, 2000

Spraying is the best way to protect small understorey plants from dieback. Spraying should only occur when rain free days are forecast for at least two days ahead and it is more effective when there is little or no wind. The solution from spraying is more dilute than for injecting, and it includes a small amount of oil to hold the droplets on the leaf surface until it is absorbed. Not all understorey plants are at risk, but it is easier to spray all plants.

## Safety

- Phosphite has a toxicity similar to table salt. It will sting eyes and cuts, but causes no permanent damage.
- Wear long pants & shirt, PVC gloves to protect hands and sunglasses or protective goggles to protect the eyes.
- Spray in a downwind direction so the spray does not blow back.

## Equipment

- Backpack sprayer (ensure it is clean and has not recently contained herbicides etc).
- Synertril Oil or Spray Aid.
- Phosphite (AgriFos 400 or 600).
- Water

The supplier of the spraying equipment, or your local Community Conservation Group may have AgriFos 400 or 600 and Synertril oil available. Alternatively AgriFos 400 or 600 can be purchased from a rural chemical supply store, and Synertril Oil can be purchased from Agricultural supplies stores & some hardware stores or nurseries.

## Preparation

- To make 10 litres of spraying solution (a comfortable weight to carry in a backpack).
- If using 40% phosphite, mix 25mL of Synertril Oil and 125mL of phosphite.
- If using 60% phosphite, mix 25mL of Synertril Oil and 85mL of phosphite.
- Before the phosphite and Synertril oil begin to separate, place in backpack and add 10L of water.



## Step 1

The mixture in the backpack should be kept well mixed at all times. Shake the backpack frequently.

## Step 2

Check the retaining ring around the top of the pump plunger is not loose. Adjust the straps on the backpack for comfort and situate the lever on the right or left side of the operator (depending on the operator's preference).



## Step 3

A tap at the handpiece allows the spray to be interrupted without losing pressure. Adjust the nozzle to give a coarse spray so the mixture doesn't blow away from the target..

## Step 4

Soak the plants so all surfaces are wet. Don't forget all understorey species including Balgas (grass trees). A 10 litre tank should last about 15-20 minutes.

## Step 5

Spraying needs to be repeated every 1-2 years.

## Step 6

Give the equipment a quick pump through with water & clean any dirt or build up from the equipment. Please return borrowed equipment to the owner promptly and report any problems.