

Online tool helps spray decisions

Effective knockdown and pre-emergent spraying is crucial, which is why it is important that farmers make the most of their crop protection investment. Correct application makes up a big part of ensuring this, which is where Spraywise Decisions, Nufarm's web-based spray application decision tool, comes in.

"Spraywise Decisions provides localised forecast information using point location with GPS coordinates," explained Gerard Bardell, Nufarm national business manager and Spraywise Decisions coordinator.

"It is accurate to within one square kilometre of the point location, which means the information you're getting is specific for the paddock you want to work in at that time.

"The information is updated every 12 hours and the program provides printable meteograms and spray planners that give hourly predictions, so it's much more than just a weather site."

Spraywise Decisions provides forecast data including temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, Delta T, frost risk, rainfall and inversion predictions, supplied in two, five, seven and 14 day reports. It has also recently been upgraded with some new features.

"The service is now available on your mobile phone, which means you no longer need to be in the office or at a computer when planning for your spray application," Gerard said.

"We have also recently added the Similar Seasons function to the toolkit. It identifies past seasons that were most similar climatically to current conditions, and projects this historic data six months forward.

"It is another piece of information that helps applicators to get the best possible results."

The development of this technology has proven very popular with those growers using the service. Members come from all over Australia and represent all components of the agricultural spectrum.

"We have growers and spray contractors using the site for application decisions in broadacre cropping, pasture management and many parts of the horticultural sector. We even have bowls club who are signed up for the service," said Gerard.

"Agronomists and consultants are also talking Spraywise Decisions with their clients. They are all reporting that it has become an integral tool in the management of their operation. It allows them to plan their application activities ahead of time.

"If the forecast is showing that the next few days will be unsuitable for spraying, it can be delayed until the indications are that conditions will be favourable, and other tasks can be done in the meantime.

"They are very happy with how accurate the forecasts are, with many users telling us that the information is spot on, especially when it comes to things like inversion predictions. It's great, and is obviously the aim of the game.

"Growers using this ground breaking technology are benefiting with greater efficiencies, better planning and reduced off-target deposition."

A free seven day trial is currently available. Visit www.spraywisecisions.com.au for more details.
