

Drift Management Plan

In accordance with Regulation 637, Pesticide Use, Rule 10

Michigan Agricultural Commodities uses a written drift management plan to minimize the occurrence of off-target drift. All pesticide applications conducted at Michigan Agricultural Commodities are made in accordance with this plan. MAC recognizes that pesticide applications shall be made in a manner that prevents off-target direct discharges of pesticides.

For purposes of this plan, off-target drift does not include off-target movement of a pesticide by means of erosion, volatilization, or windblown soil particle after the application of a pesticide, unless the pesticide label makes specific statement pertaining to drift related to these means. We recognize that operating under a drift management plan does not exclude an applicator from complying with appropriate federal or state statutes and regulations. However, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will consider the presence and proper use of a drift management plan as a factor when determining appropriate enforcement action.

A. To minimize the incidence of off-target drift, the following procedures and practices shall be utilized when applying pesticides.

1. Use of the largest spray droplets that provide effective coverage of the target site. This can be achieved by use of appropriate nozzles and the lowest pressure possible that still provides effective coverage.
2. Use of drift control additives when appropriate.
3. Release of the pesticide as close as possible to the target.
4. Use of the lowest effective rates of application.
5. Determine the wind speed, using a hand-held wind meter when necessary at the height of spray (suggested guidelines below):
 - ✓ Zero to 10 mph – Generally OK to spray. Use normal precautions.
 - ✓ 10 to 15 mph – Use extra caution when spraying. Consider use of drop spreader with granular material for turf sites.
 - ✓ 15 mph or more – recommend no spraying.
 - ✓ If area being treated is sheltered from the wind, these parameters may be adjusted.
6. Wind blocks may be used to contain or deflect spray or to block wind from the target site.
7. Target sites located in close proximity to the property line may need to be omitted or only partially sprayed to avoid off-target drift.
8. When pesticide drift is likely to occur due to the nature of the application/atmospheric conditions/wind speed/wind direction, etc., the applicator, based on his judgment and knowledge of best practices, shall ascertain the most likely areas of drift possibilities and any questionable areas of sensitive sites should be discussed with management before proceeding with the application. Do not spray when property boundaries are not clearly defined or are questionable.

B. Each pesticide applicator shall review this drift management plan annually. The applicator(s) shall sign below to indicate that they have reviewed the plan.