







# A GUIDE TO ESTIMATING WIND SPEED for spraying agricultural chemicals

**Soil Wealth**  
NURTURING CROPS



**Integrated Crop Protection**  
PROTECTING CROPS



Description	Indications	Visible signs	Wind Speed (km/h)	Spray drift risk
Calm		Smoke rises vertically; spreads out under inversion layer. Flag hangs limp.	0	<b>High</b> Unpredictable vapour and mist drift.
Light air		Smoke drifts slowly. Flags just begin to move.	1-5	<b>Moderate - Low</b> Inversion conditions could still be present.
Slight breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; flags stir from flagpole.	6-11	<b>Low</b>
Gentle breeze/wind		Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends a light flag.	12-19	<b>Moderate - High</b> Need to carefully monitor conditions.
Moderate wind		Wind raises dust and loose paper; grasses lay over and small branches are moved; flags flap.	20-29	<b>High</b> Droplet drift and vapour drift are almost certain. Unsuitable for most spraying.
Fresh wind		Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters, flags ripple.	30-39	<b>Very High</b> Unsuitable for spraying.
Strong wind		Large branches move; whistling heard in wires, flags beat.	40-50	<b>Extreme</b> Unsuitable for spraying.

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