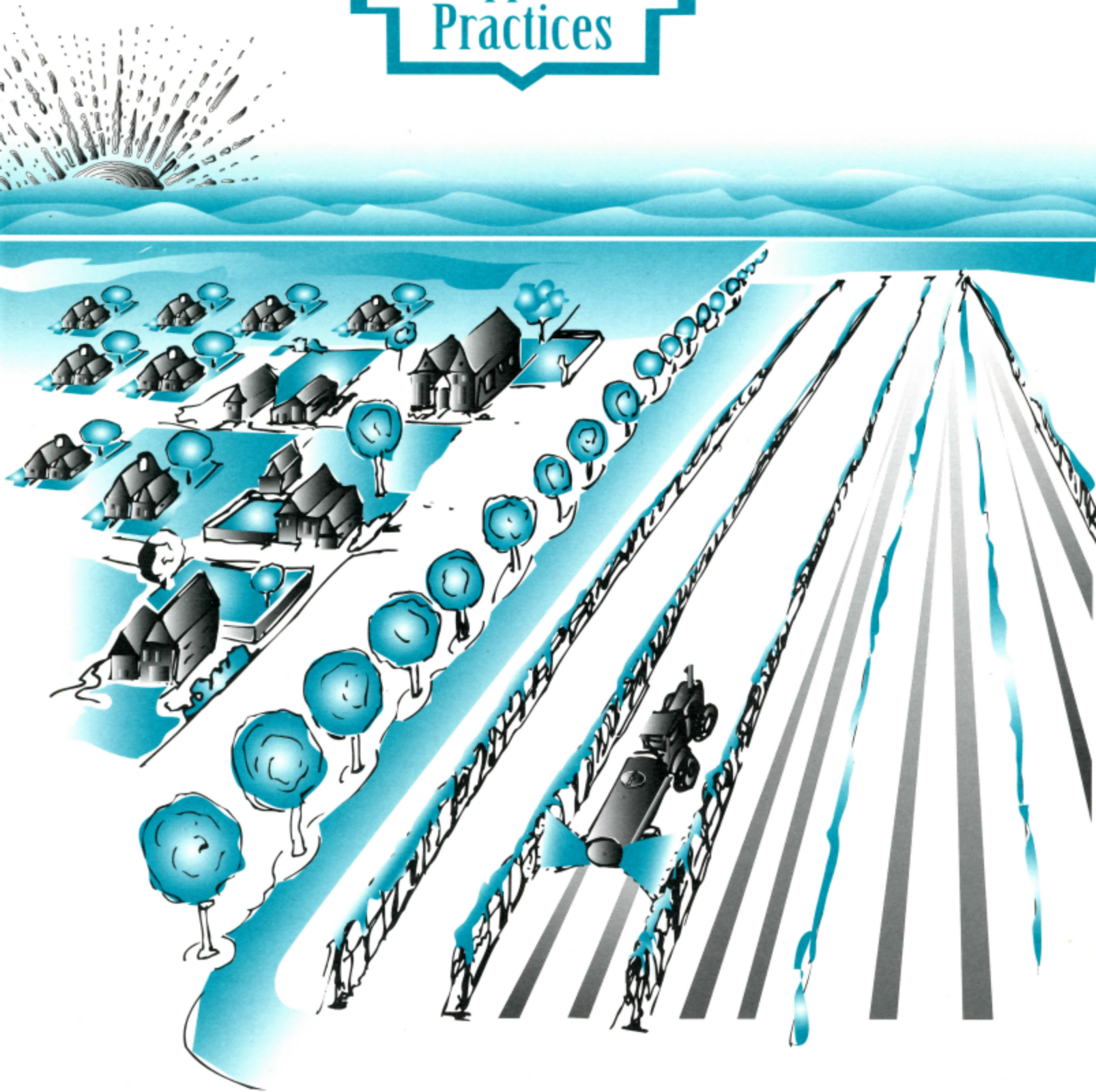


Sulfur

Best Application Practices



Managing Sulfur Applications Near Sensitive Areas

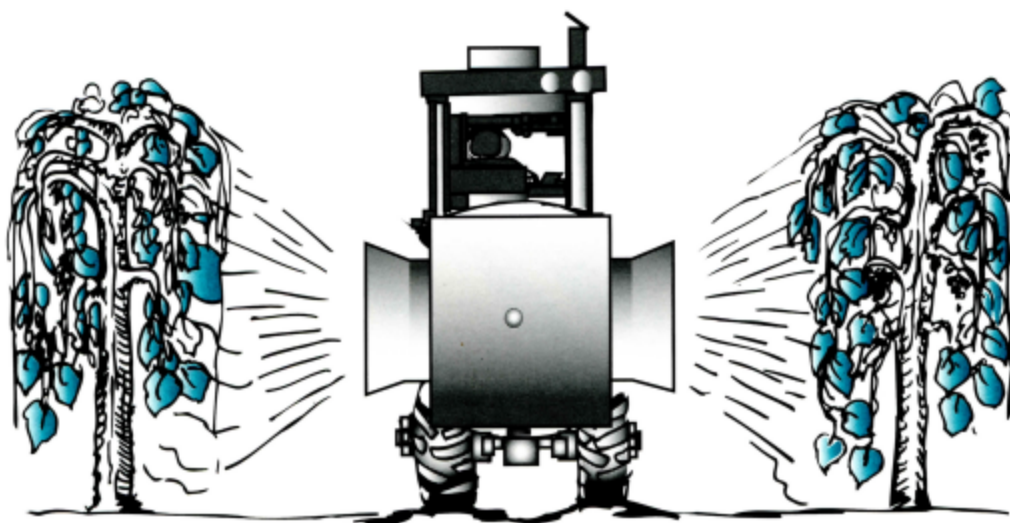
MANAGING SULFUR DRIFT

It's Your Responsibility

Anytime sulfur is sprayed or dusted on crops near sensitive areas, the equipment operator should be aware of the potential for offsite movement. While sulfur is a natural element used safely for thousands of years to control insects and diseases, exposure to sulfur can cause eye irritation and breathing difficulty.

To prevent sulfur exposure to the public, equipment operators must take extra care when working near sensitive areas such as schools, bus stops, busy roadways, residences or any area where movement of people is likely. Ultimately, the equipment operator is responsible for managing sulfur drift. If a mistake is made, it can have wide reaching implications.

Better to avoid problems by making the effort to do a proper application. Be a good neighbor when applying sulfur. Not only is it your responsibility, it's the law!



Equipment Operation

Stop dusting or spraying activities if sulfur drift will potentially move to sensitive areas.

Avoid applications when people are active in housing or urban areas bordering a treated field.

With sulfur dusters, slow engine RPM at row end to minimize drift potential.

If dusting equipment allows, disengage blower when making row turns.

When possible, apply sulfur at night or on weekends if near urban areas, roadways or where activity is common.

Keep equipment well maintained.

Start dusting or spraying only when applicator is adjacent to first plant, vine or tree.



Application Conditions

Sulfur should not be applied when the wind velocity exceeds 10 miles per hour.

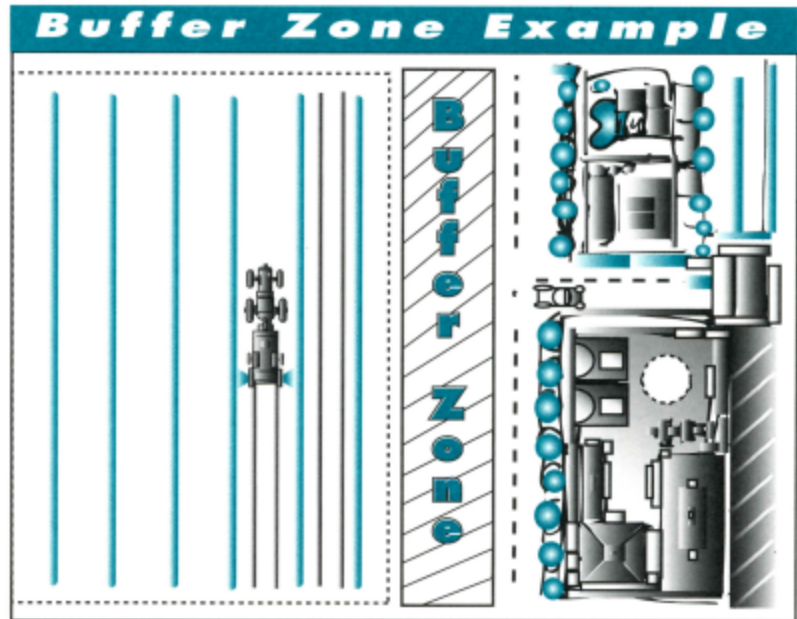
Applicators should be aware that in some areas of California, "dead calm" conditions are often associated with an inversion situation. In these areas, applying sulfur when there is minimum air movement of 2 miles per hour will help ensure that an inversion situation does not exist.

If you have questions about application conditions, contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner.

Leave an adequate buffer zone to protect sensitive areas.

An adequate buffer zone is measured as enough distance for dust or spray to settle within the treatment area.

Make sure applicator clearly understands the field being sprayed or dusted and the environment surrounding the field.



Looking Beyond The Application

Following good application practices includes being aware of the concerns of neighbors, local communities and enforcement agencies. Here are several actions suggested by growers and applicators who apply sulfur and other crop protection products near urban developments and other sensitive areas.

Apply sulfur at times when minimum activity is occurring around your treatment area.

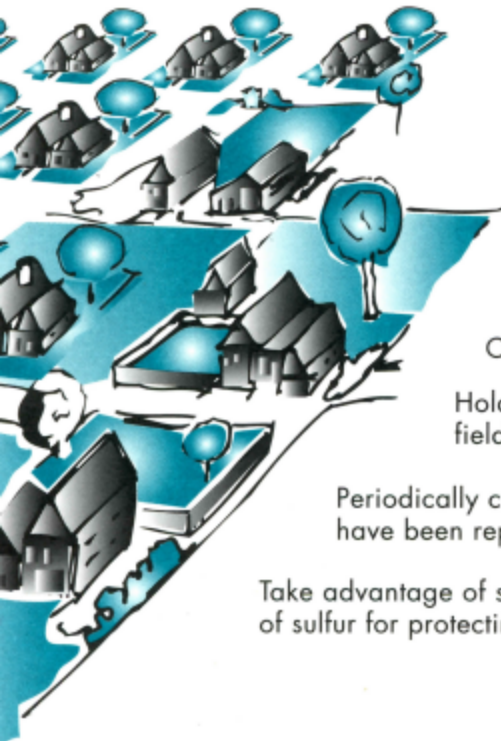
Consider applying wettable sulfur formulations in fields located near sensitive areas.

Closely track changing weather conditions.

Hold trainings for all applicator employees, pointing out sensitive areas surrounding fields being treated and proper precautions to follow.

Periodically call your local county agricultural commissioner to check if sulfur drift incidents have been reported in your area.

Take advantage of speaking opportunities with community organizations to explain the importance of sulfur for protecting crops against insects and disease.



Application Technology

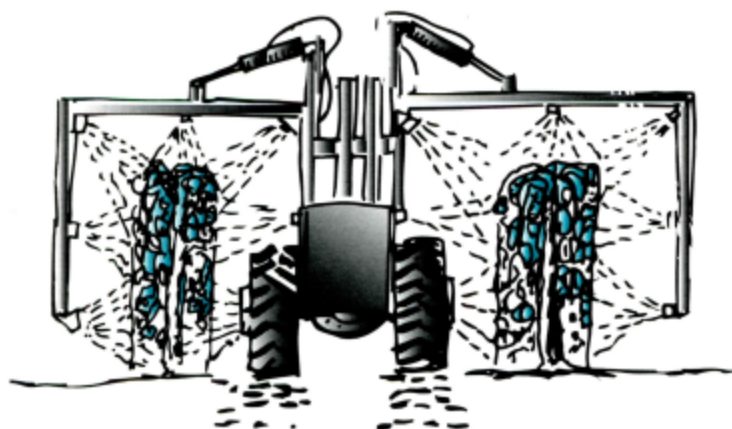
Drift studies show that using wrap-around hydraulic sprayers in vineyards produce the least potential for off-site movement.

(source: Spray Drift Task Force)

Some sulfur dusters can be retro-fitted with manifold shut-off valves, allowing operators to make row turns and not discharge sulfur.

Several sulfur dust applicator models are available with hydraulic shut-off systems.

Consult your local Cooperative Extension Service for further information.



Sulfur Application

Check-list

- Check wind speed and direction.
- Create a buffer zone between applications and sensitive areas.
- Look for people moving around buildings near application site.
- Shutoff equipment when making row turns.
- Never apply in winds above 10 mph.

Stewardship: It's Your Responsibility!

Whenever crop protection products are applied to fields, the equipment operator must be aware of potential impacts beyond the treatment area.

By taking a few common sense precautions, each application can be made safely.

Remember, being a good neighbor means practicing stewardship before, during and after activities are performed in your field.

