



Maximizing efficiency: don't forget the spray nozzle

*Nozzles are easily overlooked,
but hidden costs can add up quickly*



The spray nozzle may seem like an afterthought in your overall spraying regimen. But inefficient nozzles may be costing you much more than you think.

A set of 11-13 spray nozzles costs \$150-\$200. If the nozzle is worn or damaged, it may be putting out 10% more spray than necessary. If each fairway spray costs \$3,000, you may be losing \$300 or more every time you spray. And that adds up quickly.

The first step toward maximizing efficiency is proper nozzle selection. There are a variety of nozzle options available depending on the spray need. For example, finer spray may be needed for leaf blades, while a coarse spray may be preferred to minimize drift concerns.

“The two most important overall considerations when choosing a nozzle are the rate of application and droplet size,” explains BASF Senior Sales Specialist Jerry Husemann. “These are important factors in every spray application, so understanding both will help maximize your efficiency.”

Here are some other tips to help ensure your nozzles are performing as efficiently as possible.

- Check nozzle flow rates at the beginning, middle and end of each season.
- Inspect nozzles for damage periodically.
- Test spray patterns using water only on a dry, paved area.
- Be sure you use the flow rate monitor that shows the gallons used per minute.
- Spray fairways at a maximum speed of 4.5 – 5 miles per hour.
- Don't use flooding-type spray nozzles for fungicide or postemergent herbicide applications.
- Winterize your sprayer.
- Replace ALL nozzles when the flow rate increase is at 10% or above on more than one nozzle.

Always read and follow label directions.

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