

Accessorise to transform the humble backpack sprayer

The humble backpack sprayer is undoubtedly a useful tool. Whether used in agriculture, horticulture, garden/amenity contracting or forestry, knapsack sprayers are a standard bit of kit. But despite being a common sight in all manner of professional settings is there more to this equipment than first meets the eye? Are there more uses for this humble sprayer? Below I will argue that perhaps many professionals are missing a trick or two when using knapsacks. They may be just a bit more versatile than one first thinks.

It's all about the accessories darling!

In the world of fashion, accessories can be used to enhance otherwise mundane clothing. In a similar vein so too can the knapsack sprayer be enhanced by add on items. The big difference being that sprayer accessories, unlike say uselessly small handbags, will actually add functionality! Far from being simply decorative, sprayer accessories can vastly expand the uses for backpack and hand-held spraying devices.

Boom, boom, boom!

The most basic add-on to a sprayer is a multiple nozzle boom. This allows for wider spraying meaning large areas can be treated quickly. Most professional users will know about the basic booms available, what you might not know about are the side spraying booms, the rear mounted booms and the adjustable angle booms available on the market.

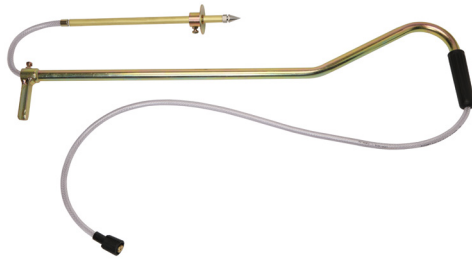


These more advanced booms can dramatically improve performance and help deliver the spray exactly where it is needed.

Injectors

Soil and stem injectors are available for use with backpack sprayers. They allow fluid to be pumped under the earth (to treat a plant root system) or directly into the stems of plants. There are a variety of applications where this is desirable. Of particular note is the treatment of Japanese knotweed which often needs a stem

injected dose of herbicide or the treatment for the elimination of underground pests like leatherjackets.



Regulators and dosing valves

Various flow regulators can be fitted to sprayers to improve the accuracy of spraying but what you might not have seen before is dosing valves. These deliver an exact amount of fluid per trigger press so, if treating thousands of plants in a nursery, an accurate dose can be delivered to each one.



All these devices can be used to increase the efficiency of the spraying by either ensuring a more consistent droplet size and / or a more consistent flow rate. So, whilst they do not increase the utility of the sprayer per se they certainly do enhance its performance.

Lances

Most knapsack sprayer users will be aware of basic lance extensions but you might not be aware that the following are also available: telescopic lances, curved lances and two nozzle lances, all of which can help make those hard-to-reach jobs

just that little bit easier. As with the booms there are many different specific applications for the more unusual spray lance configurations but essentially all help serve to get the spray more easily to where it is needed.

Conclusions

With this array of accessories a knapsack sprayer becomes a highly versatile spraying system suitable for a wide variety of spraying jobs. I hope the above discussion of the available sprayer add-ons gives some ideas about other uses for this often overlooked piece of kit.

