

Spraying smarter in the Golden Triangle

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At 35, Todd McMaster is well-entrenched in the world of contracting in the North West region's "Golden Triangle" area, and certainly a well-qualified entrant for Syngenta's Spray Awards.

Originally a Coolah boy, Mr McMaster sunk his teeth into his agricultural career of choice about a decade ago.

It began with contract windrowing, progressed to contract harvesting, and, in 2002, became McMaster Contracting and Rock Raking which Mr McMaster and his wife, Angela, run together from North Star.

"I still hire out a CASE MX 180 tractor with a chaser-bin at harvest, or alternatively put the Rock Rake behind, but I'm now mainly operating a couple of spray rigs," he said.

"At the moment I run two rigs – a DOM Nitro N2XP Spray Rig and a John Deere 6930 tractor with a 24-metre Hayes Boom off the back.

"I use the Nitro for the easier-going blocks, and keep the Hayes for the tougher, rockier, country.

"They both suit these fits well, and it means I know I can pretty much cover any country with the right gear.

"The Nitro's a pretty big rig – I've had a 36-metre boom fitted, and that way I can get across big blocks, and make my on-farm time as efficient as possible."

The N2XP's boom is fitted with trip-lex nozzle bodies every 25 centimetres, and the boom itself is run on Easy Guide boom technology.



Todd McMaster, McMaster Contracting and Rock Raking, North Star, runs two spray rigs – a DOM Nitro N2XP Spray Rig and a John Deere 6930 tractor with a 24-metre Hayes Boom off the back.

Mr McMaster also uses the Easy Guide 500 GPS technology to control the rig's one centimetre auto steering.

The Nitro spray rig is fitted with a 4000-litre tank that allows Mr McMaster the chance – weather permitting – to cover up to 800 hectares in one day.

Read more about Todd McMaster in this week's *The Land*. He is one of three NSW finalists in the running to represent the State in the inaugural Spray competition. More top entrants next week.