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Kev's Tech Tips

How should I plumb my WeedSeeker?

The plumbing of the WeedSeeker System can be installed and used in varying ways depending on the requirements of the individual customer. There are three common Boom configurations:

1) **WeedSeeker only**

With a WeedSeeker only, configuration of the WeedSeeker is operated on its own. Either there is no overall spray line installed on the boom or it is turned off. In this configuration the size of the smallest weed hit is limited by the speed of operation and the sensitivity setting of the WeedSeeker Controller. A typical sensitivity setting of 2 or 3 would target weeds the size of the top of a beer can and larger.

This setup is typically used by a customer who regularly sprays fallow paddocks and doesn't mind the growth of small weeds knowing they will be detected and hit on the next pass. This will save the most chemical per pass but may require additional passes during a season.

2) **Dual Line - WeedSeeker and Overall Spray Lines used at the same time from a single tank.**

With the Weedseeker and Overall lines operated at the same time we are able to hit the smallest of emerging weeds via the Overall line and target the larger weeds with the WeedSeeker.

For example: We may use 0.015 nozzles in the Overall line with a mixed chemical rate of 800ml/Ha and the standard 0.03 nozzles in the Weedseeker Line. Using a typical sensitivity setting of 5–8 on the WeedSeeker controller which would target dinner plate size weeds and larger. This means the WeedSeeker we would be adding an extra 1600ml/Ha to the larger detected weeds. These larger weeds would receive the Overall 800ml plus the WeedSeeker 1600ml, a total of 2.4L/Ha.

This is currently the most popular setup and an increasing number of customers are finding that the addition of a light overall rate of chemical to their WeedSeeker operation is beneficial and can replace the heavy Overall rates traditionally used in dirtier blocks. This configuration gives equal or better results than traditional Broad acre blanket sprays but uses significantly less chemical.

3) **Dual Line, Dual tanks – WeedSeeker and Overall Spray Lines operated at the same time from separate tanks and pumps.**

With the WeedSeeker and Overall lines operated at the same time from separate tanks we not only get the advantages of Dual Line operation but also the additional advantage of tailoring chemical rates and mixes to each line individually. This configuration allows use of specialist chemicals at WeedSeeker rates.