

Unlock your sprayer's true potential this winter fallow

THERE'S nothing more frustrating than wasting money – and applying herbicides to bare ground is the very definition of waste.

In the past, blanket spraying was necessary to control weeds like melons and caltrop to conserve nutrients, moisture and avoid headaches during the following season's seeding program. Across Australia, most paddocks continue to be sprayed with a blanket application despite sometimes having less than 10 per cent weed coverage. Hummingbird Technologies has launched a new product, Knockdown, to solve this issue.

Knockdown is a drone-based weed mapping service that turns your everyday sprayer into a spot sprayer.

During the 2020–21 summer fallow Hummingbird Technologies used Knockdown across Australia with outstanding results. In the example below we helped one customer reduce the cost of a spray by 95 per cent.



Our truly exciting product has been optimised over the 2020–21 summer fallow. This solution could be perfect for your winter fallow.

At Hummingbird, we are often asked how we differ from other commercial spot-sprayers? The answer is simple.



Example weed size.



Demonstrating the Knockdown spray zone with a marker.

Hummingbird sends a drone pilot to fly the paddock, processes the imagery and generates a prescription map for the grower. The drone uses a multi-spectral sensor to gather the data which is uploaded to Hummingbird's platform. Once the imagery is visible on the platform, weeds can be identified and mapped into a 5m x 5m prescription map that easily integrates with various types of sprayers and monitors. The maps are simply uploaded to the monitor and use the sprayer's section control to only spray areas where weeds are present.

Hummingbird's point of difference is:

- Growers can use their existing equipment.
- There's greater flexibility over when to spray because the data will already be loaded into the sprayer.
- There's greater flexibility over nozzle selection.
- The 5m x 5m grid sizes avoids spray drifting off-target and is better suited for application to large patches of herbicide-resistant grasses.
- And the sprayer can do the job at its normal pace.

At \$4 per hectare, no ongoing costs, and a commitment to "no result, no charge", there's nothing to lose by using Knockdown.

Our product works best on any fallow paddock with 70 per cent weed coverage or less. Plus, our service is cheaper if you have your own drone.

Many growers turned to us this summer after a wet spring in 2020 meant a delayed hit on troublesome weeds like fleabane and milk thistle. If the wet weather from February and March continues into April and May, our service will once again prove perfect after you've harvested your summer crops.

For further information please contact: Andrew Regan M: 0427 872 329 (NSW/ Qld/Vic) E: andrewregan@hummingbirdtech.com or Scott Watson M: 0437 470 015 (WA) E: scottw@hummingbirdtech.com