

Spray Advisor Press Release

From May 20th to 22nd, an array of internationally-renowned experts, leading-edge practitioners, and the model developers themselves, came together at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa, Ontario, to participate in a hands-on training session using the SprayAdvisor Decision Support System (DSS). This three day workshop was hosted by the Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service and the Forestry Research Partnership, and included a combination of introductory and applied science lectures as well as direct hands-on training using typical operational herbicide and insecticide case scenarios for eastern Canada. The beautiful riverside campus of the Canadian Ecology Centre made a perfect wilderness retreat for workshop participants in what was the first introduction of SprayAdvisor to potential Canadian users, and the beautiful weather even allowed for a few impromptu field trips!

SprayAdvisor has been under co-development by the U.S. Forest Service, Scion New Zealand and the Canadian Forest Service for several years. It is a user-friendly decision support system that may be employed by forest managers, regulators, and aerial applicators alike in optimizing aerial pesticide applications for maximum effectiveness, environmental protection and cost-efficiency: all of which are imperative for continued use of pesticides in sustainable forest management. The SprayAdvisor DSS integrates an extensive array of theoretical, scientific and experiential knowledge to generate spatially explicit predictions of pesticide deposition, efficacy and potential non-target effects using easily interpretable graphic representations in familiar ARCGIS-based output formats. The development of this software has taken into account key factors in spray applications such as the effects of different nozzle sizes, wind and other climate factors relating to spray drift and efficacy, and uses GIS technology to map out precise flight lines and spray swaths. Perhaps most importantly, extensive research was done on potential wildlife effects and toxicity in target and non-target areas, riparian zones, and in water; use of this model will help to show the exact deposition areas and to avoid these types of sensitive sites.

SprayAdvisor is truly the way of the future for silviculture, and thankfully, it is already catching on and widely used in Ontario! Please click here (<http://www.forestresearch.ca/workshops/SprayAdvisorWorkshop2008.pdf>) to see the agenda and presentations from this event.