

RPL2 Swap your Nozzles (SYN)

Why is this good for water quality?

The aim-

Low drift nozzles are designed to produce larger or air-induced droplets, making them heavier and less prone to being carried by the wind. This significantly reduces the risk of chemicals drifting into nearby water bodies such as streams, ponds, or drainage ditches, ensuring that more of the pesticide or fertiliser reaches its intended target—crops or soil—rather than surrounding areas.

As a result, the potential for surface and groundwater contamination is minimised. These nozzles are recommended by many groups in the UK and elsewhere, particularly near watercourses and buffer zones. Their use supports compliance with water protection regulations and cross-compliance rules under schemes like the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), while also helping to safeguard aquatic ecosystems, including fish, amphibians, and beneficial insects.

Why is this good for my farm?

Accurate application of pesticides and fertilisers significantly reduces waste, lowering costs and improving efficiency. It helps minimise the losses caused by drift-related issues, while also protecting non-target areas such as hedgerows, wildlife habitats, and aquatic ecosystems.

This approach supports sustainable farming practices and biodiversity goals by ensuring that nutrients and chemicals are delivered precisely where needed, enhancing crop health and yield. It also reduces variability in application, particularly under windy conditions, and ensures compliance with buffer zone requirements and spray drift regulations set by DEFRA and other agencies. Additionally, it integrates seamlessly with GPS-guided sprayers, weather sensors, and field mapping software, contributing to improved farm management and traceability.

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Payment Rate: 100% cost of nozzles, up to £1000

Specification

- The applicant must be upgrading to 4* LERAP rated low drift nozzles.
- The applicant must attend a SYN webinar organised by Severn Trent and complete a follow up quiz to confirm understanding. Webinars will be held throughout the year and can be attended retrospectively of the grant application and claim.
- This option will be funded once during the 2025-2030 funding cycle.
- Applicants will use low drift nozzles where possible as part of their spraying procedure. Subsequent sets of nozzles to achieve this will be funded directly by the user.
- Applicants can switch to alternative low drift technology but must maintain the 4*LERAP rating of the nozzle.
- NROSO signup is suggested and will be signposted as part of the application process.
- Spray contractors can utilise this option but permission to contact the landowners on which they complete spraying tasks must be sought and provided to ag advisor.
- Applicants must own their own spraying equipment and complete spraying activities in one of our priority areas.

Evidence to apply

- Mapping to show areas covered
- Images to show previous nozzles
- Landowner contact permission (for contractors)

Evidence to claim

- Invoices of new nozzles mounted on spray equipment
- Spray record detailing nozzle selection
- PA certification
- Sprayer MOT or sprayer age evidence