

Why I love golf

By Paul Martin, Director, Rainbow & Brown

Sometimes I write about GE and greenies, which annoys a few readers. Sometimes I write about politics, which also annoys a few readers. And sometimes I just can't think of anything I can write about that won't annoy a whole *lot* of readers. But summer is coming (or so it is claimed), and my thoughts turn to playing golf as often as possible. So I thought I'd tell you why I love golf, which surely can't annoy anyone. Can it?

Golf is a wonderful game. You can play it all your life, and you don't even have to be especially good at it. I even found a long neglected passage in Shakespeare that celebrates the lifelong fascination the game holds for those of us it has captured.

It's called **The Four Ages of Golf**:

First is the **Age of Fearlessness**, from age 15 to 25.

- The age when you define a short putt as anything under 30 feet with a break of less than 8 feet.
- The age when your drives leave scorch marks as they rocket across the Ladies Tee at 220 miles per hour.
- The age when cutting-edge companies like Nike, Titleist and Durex fight to have you wearing their logo (and using their products on the golf course).
- The age when your favourite golf ball is made by the same company that makes depleted uranium anti-tank shells for the US Army.

Next is the **Age of Impatience**, from age 25 to 45.

- The age when you will happily buy five new \$1200 drivers a year, but write an indignant letter of complaint when the Club puts the price of a pint up by ten cents.
- The age when you define "Slow Play" as any group visible in any direction from your location, from the time you arrive

at the car park until the time you enter the bar.

- The age when you protest that every drive ended up in a divot, every lie was terrible, and every putt was deflected by a spike mark.
- The age when choosing a new ball assumes an importance greater than choosing a new car or a prospective son-in-law.

Third is the **Age of Limitations**, from age 45 to 65.

- The age when you at last find a regular foursome that defines "inside the leather" as any putt under 30 feet with a break of less than 8 feet.
- The age when "Playing The Lie" refers to the lurid but alas impractical thoughts you harbour about the Club's aged and unattractive barmaid.
- The age when your sponsorship options are limited to Voltaren and Viagra, products which you now recognise as two of the four basic food groups.
- The age when your only interest in balls is the occasional quick check for unusual lumps or hardness.

And finally the **Age of Disintegration**, from age 65 to oblivion.

- The age when graphite shafts are required not just in your golf clubs, but also in your legs, your arms and various other appendages.
- The age when "Improving Your Stance" means that you have purchased a new truss.
- The age when your sole sponsor is Eveready, suppliers of the batteries for your trundler, your hearing aid and your pacemaker.
- The age when your balls are shrivelled artefacts of a long-forgotten past, and lie neglected on your dressing table, along with your teeth and your spare collar studs.



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SPRAY DRIFT

Types of Drift

1. Droplet Drift

Sprayed whole droplets of herbicide are carried off target by air turbulence or gravity. Normally travels only a short distance off target (e.g. next paddock).

2. Particle Drift

The water component of the spray evaporates from the sprayed droplet, leaving a tiny particle of concentrated herbicide. Particles can travel several kilometres off site under some conditions.

3. Vapour Drift

Volatile herbicides (especially esters) can form vapours that can drift directly from the spray or even by evaporation of herbicide from sprayed surfaces. This can occur for several hours after application, and may result in herbicide being transported many kilometres by updrafts, before being deposited off site.

Sensitivity

Some crops are highly susceptible to certain herbicides, and can be damaged by concentrations as much as 10,000 times lower than "normal" application rates. In particular, tomatoes, grapes and many horticultural species are highly sensitive to volatile herbicides like 2,4-D ester.

Factors Affecting Drift Risk

- Volatility of the herbicide. Esters are riskier than amines, salts and acids.
- Proximity to susceptible crops, and their stage of growth.

- Method of application – air, ground, mist blower, etc.
- Size of target area and application rate of herbicide.
- Droplet capture efficiency of target – leafy crops are less risky than bare ground, pasture, fallow paddocks & seedling crops.
- Weather conditions during and until shortly after application.

How to Minimise Spray Drift

- Check first for sensitive crops & sites in the area. Notify neighbours.
- Choose non-volatile formulations when possible.
- Don't spray when temperature is over 28°C.
- **Never** spray under temperature inversion conditions.
- Avoid excessive wind, but also avoid dead calm. 7-10 km/hr is ideal.
- Maintain a downwind buffer zone (e.g. boom's width from downwind edge).
- Minimise spray release height (e.g. boom height).
- Use the largest droplet size that will give adequate spray coverage.
- If sensitive crops are nearby, choose the least damaging herbicide.
- Maintain a log of dates, times, herbicides, rates, wind & temperature.
- If favourable conditions change, stop spraying.

MSF600 Gorse & Brushweed Spray

This product contains 600g/kg metsulfuron-methyl, the most popular and cost-effective herbicide for brushweeds, especially gorse.

MSF600 is safe to use (it's non-toxic to humans and all animals), and easy to measure and dispense. It is a non-dusty granular material and is readily water-soluble.

Metsulfuron-methyl doesn't "poison" the plant, it works by preventing the plant from producing an enzyme necessary to support new growth. Which is why it takes a few weeks to work – for a while plants can cope with not being able to produce new growth, but after about 4 – 10 weeks (depending on species and growing conditions), the plant gives in to the inevitable and begins to die. The process then quickly results in the plant becoming totally brown and desiccated, and it dies. It can then be burnt, crushed or left to disintegrate on its own.

For spraying gorse by handgun, each 200g pack makes up 1000 litres of spray, and each 500g pack makes up 2500 litres. Add SuperWetter organosilicone penetrant at 100ml per 100 litres.



Prices for MSF600, including GST and delivery, are:

200g pack \$90

500g pack \$195

1kg \$350

2kg \$660 (i.e. \$330 per kg)

4kg \$1200 (i.e. \$300 per kg)

8kg or more . call for a quote

MSF600 AERIAL APPLICATION

This table shows the recommended application rate for spraying common target species by helicopter.

Target Species	MSF600 per ha	SuperWetter per ha	Water per ha
Gorse	500g	2L	400L
Blackberry	300g	500ml	250L
Bracken	170g	1.5L	300L
Matagouri	170g	1L	250L
Manuka	300g	2L	400L

This table shows some typical chemical costs (herbicide and wetter), based on the above rates, and on the bulk discount prices applicable to various size jobs. Cost includes GST & delivery.

Target Species	Spraying 1 ha	Spraying 5 ha	Spraying 10 ha	Spraying 25 ha
Gorse	\$255/ha	\$219/ha	\$204/ha	\$173/ha
Matagouri	\$107/ha	\$87/ha	\$83/ha	\$78/ha
Manuka	\$177/ha	\$159/ha	\$153/ha	\$123/ha

Quotes: If you want us to work out a total and per hectare cost for your specific job, call us anytime toll-free on (0508) 299 299.

Glyphosate

The world's most popular herbicide. Safe to use, fast-acting, non-toxic, and economical. No residual effect in the soil. Only two days withholding period for grazing and for drilling new seed. Contains 360g/litre active glyphosate. Use at 1L per 100L for general spraying, and at 3 – 5L per hectare for most pasture renewal situations.



Prices including GST and delivery are:

5L.....\$60
10L.....\$90
20L (buy 1–3)..... \$145 ea.
20L (buy 4–9) \$135 ea.
20L (buy 10+)..... \$130 ea.
200L \$1180

Comparing Glyphosate Strengths

There are now several different strengths of glyphosate available. The original and still most common strength is 360g/L. But you can also get brands at 450g/L and others around 500g/L strength. Many people have asked us how to compare them for price. Here's how. First thing to understand is that the application rate for a particular job will vary according to the strength of the product you use:

*So if a 360g/L brand is used at 4L/ha,
then a 450g/L brand would be used at 3.2L/ha,
and a 500g/L brand would be used at 2.9L/ha.*

Each rate would apply the same amount of glyphosate active ingredient per hectare, and therefore the results would be effectively the same. In the above example:

*20L of a 360g/L brand would do 5 ha.
20L of a 450g/L brand would do 6.25 ha.
20L of a 500g/L brand would do 6.9 ha.*

So, to accurately compare the cost of the three brands:

*Multiply the cost/L of the 360g/L brand by 1.0
Multiply the cost/L of the 450g/L brand by 0.8
Multiply the cost/L of the 500g/L brand by 0.72*

The resulting figures give you a direct, apples-with-apples, comparison. And the lowest one tells you the best buy.

SuperWetter

Organosilicone wetter, essential when spraying gorse and some other brushweeds with MSF600 or glyphosate. Boosts penetration, improves uptake, and reduces rain risk period. Used at 100ml per 100L for ground spraying, and between 500ml and 2L per hectare aerial spraying.

2L...\$60 5L...\$135 20L...\$500



SprayWetter

General purpose wetter for pasture spraying and general weed spraying. Aids uptake, improves herbicide performance against hard-to-kill species, and reduces rain risk. Also very effective when spraying dusty or stressed plants. Great anytime with glyphosate, and also with MSF600 whenever the organosilicone (SuperWetter) is *not* specified. Used at 50ml per 100L for ground spraying.

5L ... \$55



Spray Marker Dye

Have we got it wrong?

Our spray marker dye has had a mixed reception. Some customers have felt that the colour is not sufficiently vivid when sprayed. On the other hand, some customers have said they are perfectly happy with it.

The product was based on an established formulation used in Australia (and some have been unkind enough to suggest that anything could successfully dye bulldust and saltbush). When we tested it, we compared it with an existing widely-used NZ brand, and it provided similar colour intensity, measured by spectrophotometer. And when we then tried it in a side-by-side weed spraying comparison with that other brand, it appeared about the same.

So we are baffled by the mixed press, and we're investigating, and doing some further trials. Although the actual intensity of colour is OK, it may be that we can boost the staining ability of the product, which would make it more visible on the leaf.

We have noted that some people were trying to use it to mark a boom spray footprint, which is not what it's for; it is intended to mark individual spot sprayed weeds and bushes. We have also found that some weed species are much more receptive to the dye than others.

If you've used it and haven't told us your impressions, please give us a call. Especially if you were not entirely happy with it. In the meantime we will announce any new developments in improving the formulation in our next newsletter, or you can phone us for an update any time.

2L ... \$65 5L ... \$150



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• Ordering

You can order anytime by phone, fax, e-mail or letter. If you call on the freephone number, you may at times get an answering machine. That means we're already on the phone, or doing something else. Don't be alarmed; leave your name and number, and we'll soon call you back. Or if we've already got all your details, just leave your order (*with your name and phone number*) on the machine.

• Delivery

We send your order within 24 hours. Delivery will usually take between 1 and 4 days. If it hasn't arrived after that time, *call us* so we can track it down for you. Delivery of orders of 60 litres or less will normally be to your door, including rural delivery addresses. However, delivery of larger orders will be to the nearby freight depot or drop-off point we will arrange with you when you place your order.

• Payment

We send your invoice by mail, the day we send your order, so you'll know when it was shipped. Payment is due on 20th following month, and you can send a cheque or use direct payment to a/c No: 123155-0066374-00. The bank account number is also on both your invoice and your statement. We send statements out in the first week of each month.

• Referrals

If you recommend our products to a friend, and they mention you when they first order from us, we will apply a \$10 discount to *your* next order for \$150 or more. Word-of-mouth recommendation is the best form of advertising, and we want to show our appreciation of your faith in us.

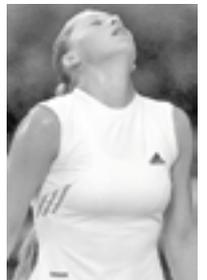
• Factory Hours

If you want to collect your order from our Rotorua factory, you're welcome. It's at 68A Tallyho Street. Open hours are 9 to 4.30, Monday to Friday.

• Sports

This year's top five most remarkable sports achievements:

5. Australia win cricket series against India, in India!
4. Makybe Diva wins second successive Melbourne Cup!
3. Boston Red Sox win World Series again after 80 years!
2. Vijay Singh wins over US\$10 million in one season!
1. AnnaKournikovastill doesn't win a tennis tournament!



PO Box 10049, Rotorua
E-mail: mail@rainbowbrown.co.nz
Freephone: (0508) 299 299
Fax: (07) 357 5870