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## Info 11: LIQUID SHOTGUN

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### RABBIT, HARE & POSSUM REPELLENT

Rabbit, hare and possum damage to newly planted tree seedlings is a major problem facing the tree grower. The browsing of even a few individuals can cause severe damage a shelter belt, forest plantation, fuelwood stands and ornamentals. Spraying egg-based repellents on tree seedlings post-planting has been successfully developed and trialed by the New Zealand Forest Research Institute [Ref: Crozier and Ledgard (1988). What's New in Forest Research. No 162 NZFRI]. The animal protein in eggs is naturally repugnant to many plant-eating animal pests – it smells like rotten eggs when it oxidizes!!

The Liquid Shotgun formulation is based on the above research and contains egg powder and an adhesive. This is then blended with water and is sprayed on the tree post-planting. Alternatively, the tree is sprayed or dipped in the repellent before planting. Liquid Shotgun may be sprayed using a backpack sprayer or drench gun. See the pack for mixing and application instructions.

It's important to treat the tree immediately after planting to ensure that the pest doesn't get a taste for the tree prior to the repellent being applied. Liquid Shotgun should be applied to dry foliage, is rainfast in 2 to 3 hours, and will continue to be effective for up to 2 months. However, the trees will need to be monitored to assess whether re-application is required (eg where new growth is rapid, pest pressure high, or rainfall is high). Mix that is not used immediately will begin to smell like rotten eggs, but is still useable. Mix can be stored frozen.

Liquid Shotgun comes in two convenient pack sizes:

- |    |            |                  |                |
|----|------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Small pack | Spray 100 trees  | Dip 300 trees  |
| 2. | Large pack | Spray 1000 trees | Dip 3000 trees |

Experience has shown that Liquid Shotgun is most effective when used as an integral part of a pest control program at or before planting time. Other methods for controlling pests include reducing pest populations prior to planting, and applying pre-plant herbicides in spots rather than strips, as animals are less likely to track from tree to tree.

**DO NOTS**

Do not treat seedlings under hot, bright conditions, as scorching may occur.

Do not apply Liquid Shotgun if foliage is wet or rain is expected before the repellent has time to dry completely.

Do not handle pre-treated seedlings until completely dry, or handle excessively after treatment.

Do not dip seedlings where dry planting conditions are expected, spray instead.

Do not allow unused egg powder to remain in contact with the air, or exposed to sunlight. Seal it in it's bag.

Do not store egg powder where cats, dogs and mice will eat it as they like the taste. If they consume a lot, it may make them unwell but it is not fatal.

Do not leave the mixture in your sprayer as it will clog up it up!

Liquid Shotgun has a shelf life of approximately 24 months when kept in an air-tight container in a dark area.