



Holistic Spray Economics

Posted by [Ian Graham](#)

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[Ian Graham](#)

[Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 20, 2017 12:53AM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 59

would like to share 2017 costs for ingredients in Ontario Canada 5b hamilton area to hopefully collate sourcing and costs are for people here and stateside.

Neem raw cold pressed (New Directions Aromatics , Mississauga) 12L C\$164. 20L \$266

Effective Microbes (Probiotics direct) 1gal Original US\$58

FishHydrolysate (Agricultural Solutions, Elora ON) 100L C\$312 (Advanced Marine Tech product)

Seaweed Extract (Bartletts. in Niagara) 10L C\$160

or Seaweed powder (Agri Solu) 1kg C\$55

I guess all seaweeds are not recreated equal either, but I don't have the supplier or brand of these two options. (I'd like to use the kelp meal I buy to feed my animals and just brew at tea out of it cuz too coarse to put in the tank.)

This works out to one season cost for my 'modest orchard' (to quote Michael in the post on the 8gal EM brewer) with about 22 sprays of 50USG each to be C\$646 or \$24 per spray. not including taxes and delivery since that varies.

I use USD1.00 equals C\$1.25.

Surround (Bartletts) 12.5 kg C\$81.25

Old 99 Farm and permaculture site

Dundas ON 5b

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 05/08/2017 10:01PM by Ian Graham.

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 20, 2017 02:10AM

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

Good stuff, Ian. I will slyly make the point that actual supporting members of the network received a comprehensive (and really cool!) review of prices and suppliers of spray products several weeks ago. [Be fully involved in this cause and you benefit in substantial ways!](#)

That price survey is something offered to network members in good standing every other year. I tell consulting clients that a holistic spray program costs somewhere between \$800 and \$1200 an acre, based on site challenges, nutritional history, and grading goals. I must say that "22 sprays" as noted by Ian is more than double what I would expect in almost every orchard situation. Chime in . . . **each one of you** has experience in spending real money to grow good fruit.

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

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[David Maxwell](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 20, 2017 03:30AM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 197

Michael, there is an aspect here which you have failed to identify - Ian has posted [Canadian](#) sources. I had never heard of a source of neem in Canada, and glommed onto this with eagerness. (Ahimsa is absolutely marvellous, but the cost of transport from the States to us here in the North literally doubles the cost. And then we lose another 30% with the currency exchange.)

I don't think you should aspire to collate prices for the few of us up here, but I do think there is a real benefit in Canadian members sharing such information.

(And, just in case i have caught the attention of other Canadians, we can't get scion wood across the border any longer either, so I have been maintaining a database of available cultivars in Canada. If anybody who I haven't already found wished to contribute a list of their holdings, send me a message.)

[Broomholm Orchard](#)

Zone 5b in Nova Scotia

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[Ian Graham](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 20, 2017 06:35AM

will get on that active support hint thx.

I just picked 22 sprays cuz MP figured in the 8 gal brewer post that a gal of Probiotic mother would make 8 + 8 + 6 batches or 22 and would last a season of spraying. I don't know how many i'll really do this year. could anyone chime on their spray frequency history?

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 59

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 21, 2017 01:57AM

Editor's Note: I'm tempted to add "in Canada" to the subject line of this thread. But let's translate currency and liters (litres) alike and truly talk about holistic spray budgets. Or conventional organic spray budgets . . . not that mineral fungicides are necessarily cheaper when applied to the usual excess. This really is a topic ripe for discussion in the context of what we each do. Be brave. Share. And then together we will discover a broader perspective. Scale is a big factor here, especially when buying something like liquid fish by the 55 gallon drum versus the single gallon needed for a home orchard.

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

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[Chris Vlitas](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

May 02, 2017 07:22PM

Edited for brevity

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 47

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 09/30/2022 05:42PM by Chris Vlitas.

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[Ian Graham](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

April 06, 2018 08:03PM

It's a year down the road. buying inputs, question is re SCD Probiotics Mother Cultures.

They have two, Original for \$59/gal and \$77/gal for Plus, which has purple bacteria not sulphur added. The concentrations are the same. The Holistic spray rec is to use 1/20 gal mother to make one gal of Eff Microbes, and mix in 100 gal tank. That's 2000x dilution from the Mother. and cost is \$.04/gal spray.

Buying their pre mixed equivalent (Bio Ag), which shows same concentration of microbes as the mother, at their recommended spray concentration of 1:1000, cost is \$.032/gal sprayed.

I hve left freight out, which could be the only reason it is economical to go to the trouble of fermenting mother culture.

So, is the tank mix rate 1:1000 like they say, or is it 1:100 like the HS protocol? when using activated microbes from SCD? SCD is not very helpful, they repeatedly say they don't support mother culture purchasers with preparation advice.

thanks to all and any

Ian at Old 99 Farm

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 59

Old 99 Farm and permaculture site

Dundas ON 5b

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[Ian Graham](#)

[Re: Holistic Spray Economics](#)

May 03, 2021 08:31PM

I'd like to see this thread come to a conclusion if any, maybe others would too.

Bio Ag is listed for foliar including orchard spray on SCD's application usage guide at 1:1000 in a couple places.

Current fob price is \$200/5 gal or \$4 per 100gal of spray. (1/10th gal BioAg in 100 gal tank per acre at the low end of range of 100 to 250 gal/acre)

ProBio Balance Original Mother Culture is US\$273/5 gal, if activated to yield 100 gal used at 1gal per 100 gal tank is \$2.73 per tank.

Pro Bio Balance Plus Mother is \$344/5 gal or \$3.44 per 100 gal tank as used in Holistic Spray.

Before delivery or for Canadians duty, taxes adn brokerage (UPS will nick you for freight and brokerage)

Conclusion imo, can save 56c to \$1.27 per tank to brew your own, before freight shipping ~1.5 (34/20) gal of mother vs 3.4 gal of Bio Ag.

SCD is coy about the difference between Original and Plus, being how much bluegreen non sulphur bacteria are in each.

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 59

The Holistic Spray for Community Orchards tallies up to 34 gal of activated microbe per season on per acre basis. I think the per acre part of the budget has lots of room for confusion because it depends on density of planting. There should be a designated 'standard acre' equaling a fixed small range of trees at maturity when specifying spray volume. I settled on 100 trees equals one acre (about 12x16 ft spacing MM111 rootstock) and if I have 200 planted on one acre, that would need twice the amount of spray. If I have 25 trees that's a quarter acre tank equivalent. This surely matters for effectiveness and cost control.

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Dundas ON 5b

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