



Photo taken by Carrington Research Extension Center

Drones for Chemical Application?

Technology is advancing at an amazing rate! People are finding ways to put drones, or unmanned aircrafts, to work in the agriculture field. From flying over rocky terrain and identifying weeds and counting livestock to actually applying chemicals to both livestock and weeds there are more options than ever.

When it comes to controlling weeds, you have many options from do it yourself backpack or 4-wheeler sprayers to hiring commercial applicators to make applications with airplanes and now drones! The use of drones for controlling weeds began when considering how to address hard to get to or rough areas so if you have areas like these drones may be something to consider.

Not just anyone can use drones for weed control though. There are special licenses through the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission as well as the NDSU Extension pesticide program. To operate a drone for pesticide application any pilot who is identified on the aerial applicators list must hold a federal aviation administration remote pilot certificate and attend approved training programs. They must also hold an aerial applicators license and ag pest control certificate from the NDSU Extension pesticide program.

The max weight of a drone or unmanned aircraft while conducting aerial application in ND is 500 pounds. When considering someone to spray weeds on your property make sure they are properly licensed and are using control methods that you approve of.

For assistance deciding whether the potential operator is properly licensed and certified please contact the ND Aeronautics Commission office at 701.328.9650 or your local county Extension office at 701.288.5180.

For more information visit: <https://aero.nd.gov/unmanned-aircraft/unmanned-faq/>