

Wally's Moss & Liverwort Control

By Wally Richards

Wally's Moss & Liverwort Control is a good way to control not only mosses & liverworts but also slimes, moulds, lichen and algae including ponds and fountains that are not inhabited by fish or frogs and not connected to any waterways.

Wally's Moss & Liverwort Control is the same chemical formulation that one finds in Surrender, Yield and McGregors Yield Moss Control. The advantage of Wally's Moss & Liverwort Control is that it is less expensive than these Me Two products.

The active ingredient is 500g / litre benzalkonium chloride in the form of a soluble concentrate. Benzalkonium, I am told, originally was a chemical used for sterilisation of medical instruments then later it was found to be an excellent control for bryophytes, the botanical name given to a number of primitive plant forms which include mosses etc.

Benzalkonium is found in a great number of products in different levels of strength from 1% upwards. For instance Veterinary Medicine; Avisafe contains 2.5-5.5% of the chemical and some pharmacy preparations contain small amounts for problems such as athletic foot and other fungal problems.

The higher the concentration the more care needs to be taken in regards to exposure to skin and eyes.

ERMA is revising the labelling of many agriculture chemicals to ensure that users are aware of health and environmental problems that various chemicals can cause.

This is a great move and Wally's Moss & Liverwort control's labels are right up to date with the current requirements for safety. The Me-Two products will in time also contain the same information. When this product is handled correctly and used taking the precautions as stated on the label it is a relatively safe product to use. Your own protection is important when mixing the concentrate and you should take note of the following;

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

May cause an allergic skin reaction. Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.

Toxic to terrestrial vertebrates. Toxic if swallowed

WARNING: PRECAUTIONS

IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. DO NOT induce vomiting. **IF ON SKIN:** Wash with plenty of soap and water.

IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Store in original container, tightly closed, away from foodstuffs. When mixing wear a face shield and protective waterproof gloves and clothing. When spraying use protective clothing. Do not eat, drink or smoke while using. Wash hands and face before meals and after work. Toxic to aquatic organisms. Do not contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the product or empty container. Disposal of Containers: Triple rinse empty container and add residue to spray tank. Burn the empty container if circumstances, especially wind direction permit. Otherwise bury in a landfill. Avoid contamination of any water supply with chemicals or empty container.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (All Hours) 0800 243 622

By wearing rubber or latex gloves, gum boots, eye protection and a spraying mask while mixing with water and spraying should keep you nicely safe.

USAGE RATES : For Moss & Liverwort use at the rate of 25 to 50 mls per litre of water.

For Lichen & Algae use at 10 to 20 mls per Litre of Water.

If spraying over plants rinse off with a hose 30 minutes after application.

Some mosses etc may need further treatments.

The best results are obtained by adjusting your sprayer's nozzle to a bit of a jet rather than a mist. A jet forces the product into the target bryophyte where it is absorbed and similar to Roundup kills the whole bryophyte. Unlike Sulphate of Iron used for moss control which only burns off the top of the moss and it returns fairly quickly and requires often several treatments.

From my own experience with the chemical, when used correctly on moss etc more often than not there is no further problems in the treated area for some months and sometimes a year or more.

It depends on how long it takes for fresh spores to colonize the area. Original trials showed no damage to most common plants, even when used at 3 times the recommended strength. Though, to be completely safe when sprayed over preferred plants (other than the lawn) it is a good idea to rinse the plants in the area used, with a hose, 30 minutes after application. It only takes 30 minutes to get into the bryophyte and start its control action.

DO NOT USE OR MIX WITH ANY OTHER SPRAYS (In case of chemical reaction and this includes Raingard which is not needed as the dry time is only 30 minutes.)

Also ideal for moss and liverwort control on container plants, moulds on shower walls, fences, roofs, outdoor furniture and curtain backing. (should not stain most materials but trial an area first to be safe.

Ponds without fish or aquatic life can be treated with a mild solution for algae. It will kill fish as it draws all the oxygen from the water as it works on slimes and algae.

Far better value than some other controls advertised for the same purposes.

The bottles have a child proof cap. Press down on cap with palm of hand and rotate. (For those that have difficulty with opening.