Using knapsack sprayers

The most commonly used knapsack sprayers are the so-called 'lever-operated knapsack sprayers'. When using a knapsack sprayer, be sure to follow these steps:

**Step 1.** Read the manual carefully before using the sprayer.
**Step 2.** Before herbicide application, test with water to make sure the knapsack sprayer is functioning properly and has no leaks.
**Step 3.** Select the right nozzle. The nozzle is the part from which the herbicide spray comes out. The type of nozzle determines how much spray comes out and what the size of the spray is.
**Step 4.** Calibrate the sprayer once every 3 months using clean water and a bucket.

Commonly used knapsack sprayer (adapted from [2])

Spraying herbicides

Prepare the sprayer and do the spraying following these steps:

**Step 1.** Fill the knapsack sprayer with water (e.g. 10 L).
**Step 2.** Add the herbicide (e.g. 100 or 200 ml).
**Note:** Always use gloves while adding the herbicide!
**Step 3.** Close the lid and shake well.
**Step 4.** Fill the sprayer up with more water (e.g. another 5 L) until it is full.
**Step 5.** Spray the weeds with the herbicide solution. Per hectare it is normal to spray 50–200 L of solution (0.5 to 2 L of herbicide) depending on the number of weeds. When doing clear-weeding (not normally a good idea!) more herbicide will be needed (e.g. up to 300 L/ha).
**Step 6.** Keep clear records of when you have sprayed, and how much.
**Step 7.** If it rains less than 4 hours after spraying, repeat the treatment (but not if spraying Gramoxone).
Overview of how to spray herbicides