

This newsletter is designed to provide Australian horticulture industries with timely, practical updates on regulatory changes affecting agricultural chemicals, pesticide use, international MRL developments, and related compliance matters. Its purpose is to help grower bodies, industry groups and supply-chain stakeholders understand emerging regulatory risks and opportunities, support informed decision-making, and ensure early awareness of changes that may influence chemical access, market requirements, or crop protection strategies across the horticulture sector.

NATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Details of the APVMAs amended *MRL Standard* can be found in the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals \(MRL Standard for Residues of Chemical Products\) Amendment Instrument \(No. 3\) 2025](#).

APVMA News

A milestone agreement between **New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS)** and the **APVMA** will speed up access to new farm chemicals by allowing both countries to share assessment work released 24 November 2025 [Media release](#). This means less duplication, faster decisions, and more efficient regulation for growers. Both regulators say the partnership builds on their already similar systems and will help bring new, innovative products to market more quickly.

The APVMA hosted the conference **EPAC2026** – an **international conference on Advancing Sustainability in Agriculture: Enabling Precision Application of Crop Protection Products by Inclusion in Regulatory Approaches (Processes)**, sponsored by the international Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Co-operative Research Programme. The conference took place over 2 days at the Melbourne Convention Centre on 19 and 20 February 2026 and was attended by experts from key sectors including:

- national and international regulators

- leading researchers and equipment manufacturers
- the crop protection industry, consultants and importantly ag-tech interested growers.

The official program for **EPAC2026** can be seen [here](#). **Day 1** featured presentations from international regulators (EU, UK, Canada, Australia), crop protection and technology leaders, and growers who are already using precision application in the field. **Day 2** was a practical workshop covering key topics such as definitions and use patterns, how to build trust in new technologies, risk assessment challenges, and how labels can better support precision application. The outcomes and recommendations from this workshop will be provided to the OECD to help shape future global regulatory approaches. Presentations are expected to become available shortly.

[APVMA's Q1 2025-2026 quarterly report](#) shows the regulator is managing a heavy workload, completing **1,505 regulatory activities** while still finalising **76.6% of agricultural chemical product applications and 73.9% permit applications on time. However, only 58.9% of technical applications, i.e., involving new product types or new product uses, were completed on time.**

The APVMA released [new guidance](#) how applicants can use **reference products** when registering or varying Agvet chemicals. Applications for new generic products or relevant variations can use reference products to minimise data requirements and allow a cheaper and quicker pathway to registration. The update clarifies what information the APVMA must hold to meet safety, efficacy and trade criteria, and explains that reference products can only be used when sufficient supporting data already exists. The APVMA has confirmed that this updated requirement is designed to ensure the APVMA holds suitable data to be satisfied of the criteria and also allow more resources to be allocated to technical applications for new products and new product uses to improve performance on these applications for the benefit of Australian growers.

Chemical Reviews

Key Ones to Watch

Paraquat / Diquat - Final [regulatory decisions](#) following review of public comment and new information is due '[mid-2026](#)'.

Anticoagulant rodenticides - Proposed decision published [16 December 2025](#). Final public comment due 16 March 2026

Fipronil – the [proposed regulatory decision for agricultural products](#) is currently published as April 2026, however, is not expected until after the Paraquat/Diquat review is completed. The final regulatory decisions are not expected until end of 2026.

Neonicotinoids including Imidacloprid - Publication of the [proposed regulatory decisions for individual neonicotinoid](#) actives are not expected until late 2026 at the earliest.

Re-prioritisation – APVMA Chemical review team is proposing to do a prioritisation exercise in first half of 2026 to reprioritise [proposed new reviews](#). Hopefully this will result in updated timeframes for what their plans are. No due date for when this will be published.

New process – Discussions with the APVMA have identified that new reviews may not officially start until an extensive pre-review analysis has been conducted to see what are the current known risks, how products are used in Australia using industry feedback, and what has been done internationally. This pre-review consultation process is expected to allow a more streamlined review process, more opportunity for real farming use patterns to be considered and better transition planning if changes are needed to pesticide labels.

Faster Pathways for Low-Risk Products

APVMA stakeholder meetings have discussed better using existing low regulatory burden pathways that are potentially underused. These pathways are designed to align regulatory effort to low risk products by use of standards and similar methods.

Grower Outcome

- Faster access to lower risk products, potentially including biologicals
- Supports IPM and sustainability

Stronger Focus on Minor Use and Permit Access

Minor use permit access is recognised as a major industry pressure point. APVMA is realigning resources to increase permit application assessment.

Grower Outcome -

- Potentially faster permit approval
- Better continuity of existing permits
- More support for minor crop sectors

Significant Registrations & Label Extensions

Various dimethoate products

400 g/L Dimethoate

Amendment of instructions to increase withholding periods after use of product from 1 to 14 days for blueberries and 7 to 14 days for blackberries and raspberries.

BASF Australia Pty Ltd.

ARGOLD HERBICIDE

750 g/L CINMETHYLIN

For control of winter grass in highly managed turf surfaces.

BASF Australia Pty Ltd.

Pylex Herbicide

336 g/L topramezone

Variation to extend use in turf

Adama Australia Pty Ltd.

Quali-Pro Twister Insecticide

320 g/L indoxacard 267 g/L novaluron

For the control African black beetle, Argentine stem weevil and bill bug in golf course turf and recreational turf.

Changes to the MRL Standard can be found in the latest [APVMA gazettes](#):

Chestnuts

- Difenoconazole T0.05 mg/kg (new)
- Pyraclostrobin T1 mg/kg (new)

Fruiting vegetables (other than cucurbits)

- Broflanilide T0.1 mg/kg (new)

Ginger root

- Emamectin T*0.01 mg/kg (new)

Leafy vegetables / Lettuce

- Propachlor T0.2 mg/kg — Cos lettuce (new)
- Propachlor T0.2 mg/kg — Lettuce, head (new)
- Propachlor T1 mg/kg — Leafy vegetables [except broccoli, Chinese (Gai lan); cos lettuce; lettuce, head; lettuce, leaf; witloof chicory] (new grouping / replacement)

Legume vegetables

- Dithiocarbamates 2 mg/kg — Legume vegetables (new grouping / replacement)

Persimmon (Japanese)

- Afidopyropen *0.01 mg/kg (new)

Tree nuts

- Pyraclostrobin 0.07 mg/kg — Tree nuts [except chestnuts; pistachio nut; walnuts] (new grouping)
- Tetraniliprole 0.03 mg/kg — Tree nuts [except almonds; walnuts] (new grouping)

Tuberous and corm vegetable

- Tetraniliprole *0.01 mg/kg (new)

Vegetables (general) / Carrot

- Linuron T0.1 mg/kg — Carrot (new)
- Linuron *0.05 mg/kg — Vegetables [except carrot; celeriac; celery; leek; parsnip] (new grouping / replacement)

Walnut

- Tetraniliprole T0.05 mg/kg (new)

The following table outlines APVMA permits granted for horticultural use from **16 November 2025 to 15 February 2026**.

Permit No.	Description	Expiry date
PER96429	Acetamiprid / Nursery Stock / General Suppression of Quarantine Pests	31-Jan-2029
PER96412	VERTENTO PLINAZOLIN technology Insecticide (Isocycloseram) / Papaya / Two-spotted mite	31-Jan-2031
PER96405	Bacillus thuringiensis / Almonds / Carob moth	31-Dec-2028
PER96355	Various Products (Isocycloseram, diafenthiuron, indoxacarb & acequinocyl) / Nursery Stock (Non-Food) / Various Pests	31-Dec-2030
PER96304	Azoxystrobin / Various Herbs and spices (field and protected cropping) / Downy mildew & Powdery mildew	31-Jan-2029
PER96203	Samurai Systemic Insecticide (clothianidin) / Pistachio / Carpophilus beetle	31-Dec-2027
PER96181	Vertento Plinazolin Technology Insecticide (Isocycloseram) / Pistachio / Carpophilus beetle	31-Dec-2027
PER96125	Indoxacarb / Tomatoes / Cockroaches	31-Jan-2029
PER96076	Huwa-San TR-50 Horticulture (Hydrogen peroxide) / Tomatoes / Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)	30-Nov-2026
PER95892	Linuron (480 g/L & 500 g/kg) / Carrots - Snackables and other short season varieties / Annual Broadleaved Weeds and Grasses as per product labels	31-Jan-2029
PER95680	Emamectin Benzoate / Ginger / Fall armyworm	31-Jan-2028
PER95164	Xzemplar Fungicide (fluxapyroxad) / Nursery Stock (NON-FOOD) / Various Diseases	31-Oct-2029
PER96886	Various products / Forest Tree Nursery / Various pests	30-Nov-2030

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Codex

The Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting (CAC48) held in November 2025 adopted the MRLs for a range of pesticides proposed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56) in September. These included:

- **Apple:** fenpyroximate, acibenzolar-S-methyl
- **Avocado:** azoxystrobin, prochloraz
- **Banana:** cyclobutrifluram, fenpropidin, folpet, fipronil
- **Cane berries (subgroup):** hexythiazox, pydiflumetofen
- **Celery, fennel, cardoon and rhubarb:** acibenzolar-S-methyl
- **Cranberries:** folpet
- **Cucumbers:** fenpyroximate
- **Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits:** azoxystrobin
- **Grapes (table):** fluoxapiprolin
- **Leafy vegetables:** fipronil
- **Lettuce, head:** pydiflumetofen
- **Mandarins, Oranges (subgroup):** fenpyroximate, fosetyl Al (oranges)
- **Mango, Pitaya:** pydiflumetofen
- **Onion:** fipronil, fluoxapiprolin
- **Olives:** cyantraniliprole, flupyradifurone
- **Pineapple:** azoxystrobin
- **Potato:** fipronil, fluoxapiprolin
- **Root and tuber vegetables (group):** fipronil, fluoxapiprolin
- **Stem brassicas (subgroup):** pydiflumetofen
- **Tomatoes and cherry tomatoes:** fenpyroximate, fipronil and fluoxapiprolin
- **Tree nuts (group):** methoprene, novaluron

The following Australian relevant active constituents had MRLs for certain horticultural commodities revoked from CODEX:

- Carbendazim - Tree nuts (group), and many other crops
- Prochloraz - Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits - inedible peel, Citrus fruits (group)

The next CCPR57 meeting will be held on the 7th – 12th September 2026.

Asia

China is proposing to lower the **trifloxystrobin** MRL for **peaches** from 3 mg/kg to 2 mg/kg

Japan intends to withdraw all MRLs for the following chemicals following the FSG Conference:

- **Carbaryl** in **oranges** (including navel oranges)
- **EPTC** in various **vegetables, melons and watermelons**.
- **Ethofumesate** in **beetroot, onion/garlic**.
- **Fenoxycarb** in **apple** and **pear**
- **Propylene oxide** in **almonds**
- **2 phenyl phenol** in **citrus**

In addition, there are proposed MRL changes to **Glufosinate** in **citrus** fruits from 0.2 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg.

Malaysia has notified proposed MRL changes in various pesticides for:

- **Pydiflumetofen** in **watermelon** from 0.4 mg/kg to 0.15 mg/kg
- **Isocycloseram** in **tomatoes** from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg
- **Trichlorfon** in **watermelon** from 0.2 mg/kg to 0.01 mg/kg (LOQ)

Brazil

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Mapa) reported the approval of 912 pesticide registrations in 2025, including new active ingredients, 101 equivalent/generic products, 15 bioinputs, and a record 162 microbial products. They also introduced **Act No. 62 (Dec 2025)** to streamline and standardise registration workflows.

Canada

Canada has notified MRL changes for **1-methylcyclopropene** in **avocados, bell peppers, broccoli, cantaloupes, cucumbers, peaches**. The MRL for 1-methylcyclopropene has changed from 0.1mg/kg to 0.01mg/kg. Australia has not set MRLs for 1-methylcyclopropene as they are not considered necessary for food safety.

European Union (EU)

- The European Union (EU) has published a proposal for the [simplification of rules on pesticide MRLs and approvals](#) in products imported to the EU.

- The EU has amended the MRLs for **ethephon**, impacting exporters of **blueberries** and **tree nuts** (except hazelnuts and walnuts). The MRLs are reduced on **apples** and **pineapples**. The new [MRLs](#) will apply from **19 August 2026**.
- The EU has lowered the MRL for **propamocarb** on **lettuces** [MRLs](#) from **19 August 2026**.
- The EU has set **benthiavalicarb** [MRLs to LOD](#) for all products, with impacts on **grapes** and **tomatoes** which will apply from **12 August 2026**.
- The EU is [raising the MRLs for oxathiapiprolin](#) on certain **brassic**as and **leaf vegetables** from **February 2026**.
- The EU is also discussing a new draft proposal to set the maximum residue levels for:
 - **Benomyl** on all products [MRLs](#)
 - **Thiophanate-methyl** on all products [MRLs](#)
 - **Cardendazim** on all products [MRLs](#).
- [France has suspended the importation](#) of (various fruits, vegetables and mushrooms) containing residues of the following active substances; **glufosinate**, **mancozeb**, **thiophanate-methyl**, **carbendazim** and **benomyl** which will apply from **8 February 2026**.

United Kingdom

The 2025 British Crop Protection Production Council (BCPC) Congress focused on how global agriculture—particularly crop protection—must adapt to intensifying pressures from climate change, regulation, trade volatility, and shifting consumer demand.

- **BASF** has also extended the range of crops for Belanty (**mefentrifluconazole**) to include carrots, parsnips, celeriac, swedes and turnips, broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, cabbages, calabrese and cauliflowers.
- **Cropthetics** has added apples, pears and cherries to **flonicamid** approvals for aphid control.
- **Corveta Agriscience** Fontellis (**penthiopyrad**) has added treatment of light leaf spot and powdery mildew in some brassicas, and treatment of plum rust in plums.
- **Syngenta** Minecto (**cyantraniliprole**) has added use in protected lettuce.
- **Certis Belchim** approval of Insyst SC (**acetamiprid**) has been extended to 2035.

The [BCPC Joint Review](#) highlighted the convergence of regenerative farming, IPM, biopesticides and cutting-edge technologies such as AI and robotics—painting a future where sustainable, efficient, tech-enabled production becomes essential to meeting global food and environmental demands.

GB adopted Codex-aligned MRLs for several plant commodities in September 2025, will be effective from 2 March 2026;

- **Emamectin**
 - **lettuce** will change from 1 mg/kg to 0.01 mg/kg (LOQ)
 - **Chinese cabbage** and other **leafy brassicas** will adopt new MRL 0.2 mg/kg
 - **Spinaches** to adopt 0.05 mg/kg
 - **Dithianon**
 - Increased in **Apricots** and **plums** to 2 mg/kg
- The UK determined that the Codex existing MRLs for **dithianon** do not meet their protection standard, the following MRLs are proposed to be reduced.
- **Citrus fruit** and **raspberries** (red and yellow) to 0.01 mg/kg (LOQ)
 - **Apples** and **pears** to 1 mg/kg

USA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is [updating guidance for nominations and minor amendments](#), aiming to streamline review times and reduce registrant delays.

[EPA updates review on potential for paraquat to volatilize](#) from treated agricultural fields and will be issuing a data call-in notice to manufacturers requesting additional data.

EPA launched a new [honeybee protection tool](#) designed to help applicators follow risk reduction-reduction practices and avoid unintentional bee exposure.

[EPA also announces final registration of ten new products containing, isocycloseram](#), a broad-spectrum contact insecticide for use on **brassica** vegetables, **potato** and other solanaceous vegetable systems, **turf**, **ornamentals** and variety of indoor and outdoor environments.

[EPA has proposed the first-time registration of *Priestia megaterium*](#) strain SYM36613, a new broad-spectrum microbial fungicide designed to

manage seed- and soil-borne diseases across an exceptionally wide range of crops, including **brassica** vegetables, **bulbs**, and **root** and **tuber** vegetables.

[EPA](#) has approved safe residue limits for the fungicide **pyriofenone** on **apples**, **berries**, and **cherries**. This action legally permits these foods to enter U.S.

commerce after treatment, provided residues remain within the established limits.

[EPA](#) issued a final rule establishing new pesticide residue tolerances for **permethrin** on several food commodities, including **sweet corn**.

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