

Head Lettuce

Agrichemical Regulatory Risk Assessment

May 2026

Regulatory pressures on agrichemicals are increasing globally, with many being either restricted or withdrawn from use. For older agrichemicals, these pressures are often the result of reconsiderations involving new or refined risk assessment methodologies that require the generation of new data. A consequence of which can be that many of these agrichemicals are not meeting contemporary risk assessment standards as the necessary data is unavailable, or where data is available, the risk posed is considered unacceptable.

The use of agrichemicals can also be impacted through differences in standards between trading partners. The lack of an appropriate pesticide maximum residue limit (MRL) in an importing country can, for practical purposes, effectively prohibit use in the exporting country to ensure compliance, as MRL breach would adversely affect market access. This report provides details of CODEX MRLs as a means of highlighting risks for countries that rely on CODEX, however does not include every instance of where an importing country specific MRL is less than the relevant Australian MRL. The Australian Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry provides information directly to grower bodies when MRLs change in other countries.

The effects of the above are greater regulatory pressure placed on the use of individual agrichemicals or chemical groups. Consequently, the number of approved agrichemical options could be adversely impacted.

To assist strategic planning, with respect to future pest management options, the following tables have been developed to highlight the regulatory threats to agrichemicals currently approved for the management of the pests and diseases in Head Lettuce in Australia, as well as assisting with any current initiatives aimed at identifying and addressing pest management deficiencies.

R0	Use no longer approved
R1	Short-term: Critical concern over retaining access < 1 year
R2	Medium-term: Maintaining access of significant concern <2-5 years
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R4	No current risk/concerns

INSECTICIDES/MITICIDES/NEMATOCIDES - Insect and other pests

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
AFIDOPYROPEN	9D	Cabbage aphid Cotton aphid Currant lettuce aphid Green peach aphid Silverleaf whiteflies	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS	11A	Helicoverpa Armyworm Diamondback (Cabbage) moth Loopers Soybean looper Permit PER14694 for the control of Fungus Gnats (Sciaridae spp.)	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER14694 Expiry date: 31/03/2029
BIFENAZATE	20D	Permit PER14210 for the control of Two-Spotted Mite	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER14210 Expiry date: 31/10/2026 UK: Withdrawn (2029). Canada: In re-evaluation
CANOLA OIL	--	Aphid, cabbage moth, cabbage white butterfly, caterpillar, earwig, fly, leafhopper, mealy bug, scale, sooty mould, thrip, two spotted mite, whitefly	Australia: No current concerns.
CANOLA OIL PYRETHRINS	3A	Aphids, thrips, caterpillars, whitefly, ants, flies, earwigs, leafhopper, two-spotted mite, scale, mealybug, sooty mould	CANOLA OIL Australia: No current concerns. PYRETHRINS Australia: No current concerns.
CARBARYL	1A	Vegetable weevil	Australia: Codex - being considered for periodic review EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation
CHLORANTRANILIPROLE	28	Helicoverpa spp.	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 20 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation
CYROMAZINE	17	Permit PER81867 for the control of Leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER81867 Expiry date: 31/10/2030 Codex MRL: 4 mg/Kg EU: Not approved

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EMULSIFIABLE BOTANICAL OILS	--	Permit PER14077 for the control of Silverleaf whitefly	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER14077 Expiry date: 31/07/2028
FLUBENDIAMIDE	28	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 5 mg/Kg EU: Not approved
HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA NPV	31	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns
INDOXACARB	22A	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 7 mg/Kg EU: Not approved
IRON EDTA COMPLEX	--	For the control of snails and slugs	Australia: No current concerns
MALATHION	1B	28-spotted potato ladybird Aphids Australian plague locust Diamondback (Cabbage) moth Green vegetable bug Redlegged earth mite Rutherglen bug Thrips	Australia: The final regulatory decision was published in an APVMA Special Gazette on 2 May 2024 . Labels have been varied. Products bearing previously approved labels must not be supplied after 1 May 2026. Canada: In re-evaluation
METALDEHYDE	--	For the control of snails and slugs	Australia: No current concerns Canada: In re-evaluation
PETROLEUM OIL	UN	Permit PER12221 for the control of: Aphids Green mirid Green vegetable bug Grey cluster bug Leafhoppers Mites Rutherglen bug Thrips	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER12221 Expiry date: 30/09/2027 EU: Not approved
PIRIMICARB	1A	Aphids	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 5 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: Cancelled
POTASSIUM SALTS OF FATTY ACIDS	--	Permit PER13920 for the control of Glasshouse whitefly and Silverleaf whitefly	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER13920 Expiry date: 31/12/2027 Canada: In re-evaluation

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PYRETHRINS	3A	Ants Cabbage aphid Diamondback (Cabbage) moth Earwig Greenhouse whitefly Helicoverpa Jassids/Leafhoppers Plague thrips Rose aphid Rutherglen bug Thrips Two-spotted (Red spider) mite Whitefly Fruitfly, Rutherglen bug, Spiders	Australia: No current concerns.
PYRIPROXYFEN	7C	Silverleaf whiteflies	Australia: No current concerns.
SPINETORAM	5	Helicoverpa Loopers Western flower thrips	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation
SPINOSAD	5	Helicoverpa Loopers Western flower thrips Permit PER96806 for the control of Fall Armyworm	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER96806 Expiry date: 30/05/2031 Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation
SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA NPV	--	PER90820 for the control of Fall Armyworm	Australia: No current concerns Permit PER90820 Expiry date: 31/03/2027
SULFOXAFLOX	4C	Brown sowthistle aphid Green peach aphid Greenhouse whitefly	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 6 mg/Kg

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FUNGICIDES – Disease Control

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
AZOXYSTROBIN	11	Anthracnose Sclerotinia rot Base rot/Bottom rot	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 3 mg/Kg UK: Withdrawn (2029). Canada: In re-evaluation
AZOXYSTROBIN OXATHIPIPROLIN	11 + 49	Alternaria leaf spot Downy mildew Sclerotinia rot	AZOXYSTROBIN Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 3 mg/Kg UK: Withdrawn (2029). Canada: In re-evaluation OXATHIPIPROLIN Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 3 mg/Kg
Bacillus amyloliquefaciens strain QST 713	BM02	Permit PER87630 for the control of Bacterial spot / Blight	Australia: No current concerns. Permit per87630 Expiry date: 31/03/2027
BOSCALID	7	Sclerotinia rot	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 40 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation
CHLOROTHALONIL	M5	Permit PER14964 for the control of Anthracnose (shot hole)	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2028. Permit PER14964 Expiry date: 31/07/2026 EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
COPPER	M1	Anthracnose Bacterial spot Downy mildew Dry leaf spot	Australia: No current concerns.
DIMETHOMORPH	40	Anthracnose Downy mildew Septoria leaf spot	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation

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DIMETHOMORPH AMETOCTRADIN	40 + 45	Downy mildew	<p>DIMETHOMORPH Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation</p> <p>AMETOCTRADIN Australia: No current concerns Codex MRL: 50 mg/Kg UK: Withdrawn (2031).</p>
FENHEXAMID	17	Botrytis/Grey mould	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 30 mg/Kg
FLORYLPICOXAMID	21	Sclerotinia rot	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Pending
FLUDIOXONIL CYPRODINIL	12 + 9	Anthraxnose Sclerotinia rot	<p>FLUDIOXONIL Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution</p> <p>CYPRODINIL Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 50 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation</p>
FLUOPYRAM TRIFLOXYSTROBIN	7 + 11	Sclerotinia rot	<p>FLUOPYRAM Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 15 mg/Kg</p> <p>TRIFLOXYSTROBIN Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 15 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation</p>
IPRODIONE	2	Botrytis/Grey mould Sclerotinia rot	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
ISOFETAMID	7	Lettuce drop / Sclerotinia	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 5 mg/Kg
MANCOZEB	M3	Downy mildew Septoria leaf spot	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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MANCOZEB DIMETHOMORPH	M3 + 40	--	<p>MANCOZEB Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)</p> <p>DIMETHOMORPH Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation</p>
MANCOZEB METALAXYL	M3 + 4	Downy Mildew, Septoria Leaf Spot, Anthracnose	<p>MANCOZEB Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)</p> <p>METALAXYL Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER14318 Expiry date: 31/07/2027 EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation</p>
MANDESTROBIN	11	Sclerotinia rot	Australia: No current concerns.
MANDIPROPAMID	40	Downy mildew	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 25 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation
METALAXYL	4	Permit PER14318 for the control of Damping off	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER14318 Expiry date: 31/07/2027 EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation
METIRAM	M3	Downy mildew Septoria leaf spot	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved Canada: Only approved for foliar applications in potato crops.
OXATHIAPROLIN	49	Downy mildew	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 3 mg/Kg
PENTHIOPYRAD	7	Powdery mildew Sclerotinia rot	Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 30 mg/Kg EU: Not approved
POTASSIUM BICARBONATE	M2	Permit PER13695 for the control of Powdery Mildew	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER13695 Expiry date: 30/06/2030 Canada: In re-evaluation

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PROCHLORAZ	3	Anthracoze	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
PROPAMOCARB HYDROCHLORIDE FLUOPICOLIDE	43	Downy mildew	PROPAMOCARB HYDROCHLORIDE Australia: No current concerns. FLUOPICOLIDE Australia: No current concerns Codex MRL: 30 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution
PROPINEB	M3	Downy mildew	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved
PROPINEB OXADIXYL	M3 + 4	Downy mildew	PROPINEB Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved OXADIXYL Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
PYDIFLUMETOFEN FLUDIOXONIL	7 + 12	Grey mould (Botrytis cinerea) White mould	PYDIFLUMETOFEN Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 20 mg/Kg EU: Pending Canada: In re-evaluation FLUDIOXONIL Australia: No current concerns. Codex MRL: 10 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution
PYRIMETHANIL	9	Permit PER12565 for the control of Grey Mould	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER12565 Expiry date: 30/04/2030 Codex MRL: 3 mg/Kg Canada: In re-evaluation
QUINTOZENE	14	Bottom Rot (Rhizoctonia)	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
TEBUCONAZOLE	3	Sclerotinia rot	Australia: APVMA: Removed from nomination list - maintain watching brief Codex MRL: 5 mg/Kg EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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THIRAM	M3	Botrytis/Grey mould Septoria leaf spot Anthracnose	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved Canada: Only approved for seed treatment.
TOLCLOFOS-METHYL	14	Bottom rot (Rhizoctonia solani)	Australia: No current concerns.

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HERBICIDES – Weed Control

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Risks and Comments
CHLORIDAZON	5	Australia: No current concerns.
CLETHODIM	1	Australia: No current concerns.
DIQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review . Publication of the final regulatory decision is now expected in Mid 2026. EU: Not approved USA: No agricultural uses allowed. Aquatic herbicide.
FLUAZIFOP-P PRESENT AS THE BUTYL ESTER	1	Australia: Nominated for targeted spray drift reconsideration Canada: Cancelled
PARAQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review . Publication of the final regulatory decision is now expected in Mid 2026. Candidate chemical recommended to be listed to Rotterdam Convention. EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Restricted use
PENDIMETHALIN	3	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
PHENMEDIPHAM	5	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER81241 Expiry date: 31/03/2028
PROPYZAMIDE	3	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation
SETHOXYDIM	1	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved Canada: Phase-Out
TRIFLURALIN	3	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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FUMIGANTS

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	Use	Risks and Comments
1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	Control of soil borne diseases, plant parasitic Nematodes, Symphylans and Wireworms	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Pending Canada: Cancelled
CHLOROPICRIN	Control of soil borne diseases, plant parasitic Nematodes, Symphylans and Wireworms	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved USA: Restricted use
CHLOROPICRIN + 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	Control of soil borne diseases, plant parasitic Nematodes, Symphylans and Wireworms	<p>CHLOROPICRIN Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved USA: Restricted use</p> <p>1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE Australia: No current concerns. EU: Pending Canada: Cancelled</p>
ETHANEDINITRILE	Soil borne pathogens, nematodes and weeds	Australia: No current concerns.
METHAM PRESENT AS SODIUM SALT	Germinating weeds and soil-borne fungus diseases	Australia: No current concerns.

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PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS AND OTHERS

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	Use	Risks and Comments
1-METHYLCYCLOPROPENE	Postharvest treatment	Australia: No current concerns UK: Withdrawn (2034).
INDOLE BUTYRIC ACID	Aid in promotion of root formation, May stimulate plant growth, Reduction of transplant shock	Australia: No current concerns

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Funding statement: *MT24008 –Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination. This multi-industry project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.*

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