

Rhubarb

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Regulatory pressures on agrichemicals are increasing globally, with many being either restricted or withdrawn from use.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 Rhubarb 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
R3	Long-term: Potential issues associated with use – Monitoring required < 5 years
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
ABAMECTIN	6	Broad mite	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration and spray drift assessment . Permit PER96481 Expiry date: 31/07/2028
AFIDOPYROPEN	9D	Green peach aphid Cabbage aphid Currant lettuce aphid Cotton aphid / Melon aphid Corn aphid	Australia: No current concerns.
BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS	11A	Armyworm Cotton bollworm Native budworm Cabbage moth Cabbage white butterfly Caterpillar Green looper Light brown apple moth Caterpillar pear loopers Vine moth	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.
CHLORANTRANILIPROLE	28	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns.
CHLORPYRIFOS	1B	--	Australia: The chemical review was completed in September 2024 . Most uses in horticultural crops were removed. After 30 September 2025, products with previously approved labels must not be supplied. The only remaining approved use is in Brassica crops as specified on current labels.

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CYROMAZINE	17	Permit PER81867 for the control of leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER81867 Expiry date: 30/09/2026
DIAZINON	1B	Caterpillars Cutworms	Australia: APVMA made a Final Decision on 2024 . After 10 September 2025, crop uses are no longer approved. . Codex: All MRLs deleted
DIMETHOATE	1B	Aphids Bugs/Green vegetable bug Jassids Leafhoppers Leafminer flies (Liriomyza spp.) Mites Thrips	Australia: APVMA: Chemical Review prioritised to be commenced by 2029 .
FIPRONIL	2B	European Wasp	Australia: APVMA: Proposed Regulatory decision was expected by April 2026. APVMA is now advising the by end of 2026 at the earliest. Permit PER89402 Expiry date: 30/04/2027
FLUBENDIAMIDE	28	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns.
IMIDACLOPRID	4A	Permit PER14212 for the control of aphids	Australia: APVMA: Neonicotinoids chemical review has been delayed. The proposed regulatory decision unlikely before 2027. Permit PER14212 Expiry date: 31/07/2027
IRON EDTA COMPLEX	--	Snails and slugs	Australia: No current concerns
METALDEHYDE	--	Snails and slugs	Australia: No current concerns Canada: In re-evaluation
NUCLEAR POLYHEDROSIS VIRUS OF HELICOVERPA ZEA	--	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns.
PERMETHRIN	3A	Green Peach Aphid Suppression only Green Looper Light Brown Apple Moth Native Budworm Permit PER13441 for the control of Green Peach Aphid, Green Looper, Light Brown Apple Moth and Budworms	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration after 2029 . Permit PER13441 Expiry date: 31/03/2027
PHOSPHOROUS (PHOSPHONIC) ACID	P07 (33)	Permit PER86805 for the control of Downy mildew	Australia: No current concerns.
PIPERONYL BUTOXIDE PYRETHRINS	3A	Ants Aphids Caterpillars Leaf hoopers Thrips	PIPERONYL BUTOXIDE Australia: No current concerns. PYRETHRINS Australia: No current concerns.
PYRIPROXYFEN	7C	Ants	Australia: No current concerns.

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SPINETORAM	5	Caterpillars Helicoverpa Leafminer flies (Liriomyza spp.) (PER91155) Permit PER94451 for the control of leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER94451 Expiry date: 31/07/2027
SPINOSAD	5	Permit PER89870 for the control of Fall Armyworm Permit PER94331 for the control of Dipteran leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER89870 Expiry date: 31/10/2030 Permit PER96806 Expiry date: 30/05/2031
SPIROTETRAMAT	23	Cotton aphid Green peach aphid Plague thrips Tomato thrips Western flower thrips	Australia: No current concerns.
TRICHLORFON	1B	Cabbage moth Cabbage white butterfly Green vegetable bug Rutherglen bug	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration after 2029.

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FUNGICIDES – Disease Control

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
CHLOROTHALONIL	M5	Ascochyta leaf spot	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2028. Codex MRL: 7 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
COPPER	M1	Downy mildew Leaf spots Phytophthora crown rot Rust	Australia: No current concerns.
MANCOZEB	M3	Downy mildew Rust	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
MANCOZEB METALAXYL	M3 + 4	Downy mildew	MANCOZEB Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled) METALAXYL Australia: No current concerns. EU: Approved, candidate for substitution Canada: In re-evaluation
PHOSPHOROUS (PHOSPHONIC) ACID	P07 (33)	Permit PER86805 for the control of: Green Peach Aphid Green Looper Light Brown Apple Moth Budworms	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER86805 Expiry date: 31/10/2028
SULPHUR	M2	Powdery Mildew Bean Rust Tomato Russet Mite Bean Spider Mite Twospotted Mite	Australia: No current concerns. Canada: In re-evaluation

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HERBICIDES – Weed Control

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Active Constituent	MoA Group	Risks and Comments
CLETHODIM	1	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER82459 Expiry date: 30/09/2026
DIQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review . Publication of the final regulatory decision is expected in Mid 2026. EU: Not approved
MCPA	4	Australia: Chemical reconsideration for Group 4 - Phenoxy-carboxylate herbicides. Spray drift. Prioritised for Q3 2025. Permit PER13152 Expiry date: 30/09/2026 Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
PARAQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review . Publication of the final regulatory decision is expected in Mid 2026. Candidate chemical recommended to be listed to Rotterdam Convention. EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Restricted use
S-METOLACHLOR	15	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved

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FUMIGANTS

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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	CHLOROPICRIN Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved USA: Restricted use 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE Australia: No current concerns. EU: Pending Canada: Cancelled
ETHANEDINITRILE	Soil borne pathogens, nematodes and weeds	Australia: No current concerns.
ETHYL FORMATE	Post harvest fumigant for the control of Detritus moth	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
METHAM PRESENT AS SODIUM SALT	Germinating weeds and soil-borne fungus diseases	Australia: No current concerns.
METHYL BROMIDE	Disinfestation treatment of commodities	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration after 2029. Permit PER96144 Expiry date: 31/01/2031 EU: Not approved Canada: Remaining pre-plant soil fumigation uses were cancelled (June 2025) USA: Restricted use

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