

# Maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin

*Published by AGRINFO on 09 Oct 2025*

## EU discusses setting MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin in or on certain products [[download](#)]

[Draft](#) Annex [[download](#)]

## Update

The current maximum residue levels (MRLs) for cypermethrin cover the group of isomers: cypermethrin, alpha-cypermethrin, beta-cypermethrin, and zeta-cypermethrin. The European Food Safety Authority has identified potential risks related to the current cypermethrin MRLs for certain products, with particular concerns regarding alpha-cypermethrin, which is more toxic. The European Union (EU) is therefore discussing setting specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, in addition to the general MRL covering all forms of cypermethrin. In parallel, the EU is also reviewing the cypermethrin MRLs (see [Maximum residue levels for cypermethrins](#)).

## Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, dates, figs, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, soursops, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, durians, potatoes, cassava roots, yams, arrowroots, sweet potatoes, beetroots, carrots, celeriac, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergines/eggplants, okra/lady's fingers, gherkins, courgettes, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn, broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, witloofs/Belgian endives, lamb's lettuces/corn salads, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, watercresses, baby leaf crops (including Brassica species), chervil, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, grape leaves, beans and peas (with and without pods), lentils, asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, globe artichokes, cultivated/wild fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes, beans, lentils, lupini beans, linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, cotton seeds, safflower seeds, soyabeans, pumpkin seeds, castor beans, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, olives for oil production, oil palm kernels and fruits, kapok, barley, oat, buckwheat, maize/corn, millet, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat, chamomile, hibiscus, rose, jasmine, lime, strawberry, rooibos, maté, valerian, ginseng, aniseed, black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, capers, saffron, mace, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, cardamom, liquorice, turmeric, sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots, muscle/fat/liver, kidney/edible offals (swine, cattle, sheep, goats, equine, poultry), bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail)

## What is changing?

The EU is discussing setting separate MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, as summarised in Table 1.

## Why?

While cypermethrin is a pesticide authorised for use in the EU, alpha-, beta-, and zeta-cypermethrin are not. The MRL for cypermethrin refers to the group of all these isomers. The European Food Safety Authority has identified potential risks related to the current cypermethrin MRL for certain products ([EFSA 2023](#)). As there are particular risks associated with the more toxic alpha-cypermethrin, the European Commission proposes to set separate MRLs for cypermethrin and alpha-cypermethrin. This approach will allow the EU to maintain MRLs for many products identified as a risk, and also maintain alignment with Codex Alimentarius MRLs (CXLs) ([European Commission 2024](#)). EFSA has provided further guidance on setting MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin ([EFSA 2025](#)).

## Timeline

This Regulation is still under discussion and is expected to be adopted in 2026.

## Background

MRLs are set in accordance with the rules set out in Regulation [396/2005](#). For information on current MRLs for other substances, please consult the [EU Pesticide Residues database](#).

## Resources

EFSA (2023) [Review of the existing maximum residue levels for cypermethrins according to Article 12 of Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005](#). EFSA Journal, 21(3): 7800.

EFSA (2025) [Statement on MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin and screening of the existing EU MRLs for cypermethrin](#). EFSA Journal, 23: e9386.

European Commission (2024) [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues 23 - 24 September 2024](#)

## Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin in or on certain products [download]


[Draft](#) Annex [download]

Visit the [AGRINFO website](#) to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and [search](#) the database.

## Table & Figures

Table 1 Maximum residue levels under discussion for alpha-cypermethrin		
Food category	Products	Alpha-cypermethrin: new MRL (mg/kg)
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	0.08
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.015
Pome fruits	Apples, pears	0.007*
	Quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	0.03*
Stone fruits	Apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums	0.007*
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	0.03
	Strawberries	0.07
	Blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries	0.007*
Miscellaneous fruits	Dates, figs, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, soursops/guanabanas	0.007*
	Table olives	0.09
	Kumquats	0.07
	Carambolas	0.04
	Durians	0.2
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes	0.015
	Cassava roots/manioc, yams, arrowroots	0.007*
	Sweet potatoes	0.01
	Beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip-rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	0.03
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	0.02
	Spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions	0.007*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes	0.015
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.007*
	Aubergines/eggplants	0.03
	Okra/lady's fingers	0.15
	Gherkins	0.07
	Courgettes, cucumbers	0.007*
	Melons	0.01
	Pumpkins, watermelons	0.07
	Sweetcorn	0.015
Continued...		

Table 1 Continued		
Food category	Products	Alpha-cypermethrin: new MRL (mg/kg)
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli	0.03
	Cauliflowers	0.01
	Brussels sprouts, head cabbages	0.03
	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies	0.007*
Leaf vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers	Lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, witloofs/Belgian endives	0.007*
	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards	0.3
	Cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, watercresses	0.9
	Baby leaf crops (including Brassica spp.), chervil, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	1
	Grape leaves and similar species	0.015
Legume vegetables	Beans and peas (with pods)	0.04
	Beans and peas (without pods), lentils	0.007*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	0.09
	Cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.007*
	Globe artichokes	0.1
Fungi, mosses, lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.007*
Algae and prokaryotes		0.007*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, lupins/lupini beans	0.015
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanut/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, cotton seeds, safflower seeds	0.1
	Soyabeans	0.015
	Pumpkin seeds, castor beans	0.007*
	Borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds	0.01
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production	0.09
	Oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok	0.007*
Cereals	Barley, oats	0.09
	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet	0.3
	Rice	0.05
	Rye	0.02
	Sorghum	0.3
	Wheat	0.04
Teas		0.05*
Coffee beans		0.03
Continued...		

Table 1 Continued		
Food category	Products	Alpha-cypermethrin: new MRL (mg/kg)
Herbal infusions	Camomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, strawberry, rooibos, maté	0.1*
	Valerian	0.05*
	Ginseng	0.03
Cocoa beans, carobs/St John's breads		0.05*
Hops		0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.05*
	Allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind	0.5
	Cardamom	3
	Liquorice, turmeric/curcuma	0.2
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots	0.1
	Sugar canes	0.07
	Chicory roots	0.01
Products of animal origin	Muscle (swine, cattle)	0.03
	Muscle (sheep, goats, horse, poultry)	0.05
	Fat (swine)	0.07
	Fat (cattle)	0.2
	Fat (sheep, goats, horse)	2
	Fat (poultry)	0.1
	Liver, kidney, edible offals (other than liver and kidney) (swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horse, poultry)	0.05
	Milk (cattle)	0.015
	Milk (sheep, goats, horse)	0.05
Bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail)		0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		0.01*
* Limit of determination.  <a href="http://www.agrininfo.eu">www.agrininfo.eu</a>		

Source: based on [PLAN/2023/1863 Draft v5](#)

**Disclaimer:** *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*