

# Maximum residue levels for copper compounds

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## EU discusses revision of MRLs for copper compounds

[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 copper compounds in or on certain products [[download](#)]

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

## Update

The European Union (EU) is discussing its review of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for copper compounds. This may involve reducing the MRLs on a wide range of products, which is likely to have an impact on suppliers.

## Impacted products

Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, almonds, Brazil nuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, figs, kaki/Japanese persimmons, kiwi fruits (green, red, yellow), litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, pineapples, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, breadfruits, soursops/guanabanas, potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips, horseradishes, garlic, onions, shallots spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions, tomatoes, aubergines/eggplants, sweet peppers/bell peppers, okra/lady's fingers, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn, broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies, lamb's lettuces, lettuces, escaroles, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, watercresses, chervil, chives, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, grape leaves and similar species, Belgian endives, celery leaves, beans and peas (with and without pods), lentils, asparagus, cardoons, bamboo shoots, palm hearts, leeks, globe artichokes, cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens, algae and prokaryotes organisms, beans, lentils, lupins, peas, linseeds, hemp seeds, peanuts/groundnuts, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, soyabeans, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, castor beans, oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok, barley, millet, buckwheat, sorghum, oat, rye, rice, wheat, rye, sorghum, wheat, chamomile, rooibos, hibiscus, rose, jasmine, lime, maté, valerian, ginseng, aniseed, black cumin, celery, dill, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, tamarind, saffron, mace, coriander, cumin, cinnamon, fennel, cardamom, vanilla, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, cloves, capers, sugar canes, chicory roots, fat (swine, poultry), muscle (swine, goats, other farmed terrestrial animals), liver (swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals), kidney and edible offals (swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horse, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals), milk (cattle, sheep, horse), milk (goat), bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail), honey and other apiculture products, cocoa beans, carobs/St John's breads, hops, teas, coffee beans

## What is changing?

The EU is discussing the amendment of MRLs for copper compounds on certain products, as summarised in Table 1.

## Why?

The discussion is based on updated scientific assessments by the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2025](#)), which reviewed all sources of exposure and considered both authorised uses of copper as a pesticide and the widespread natural presence of copper in soil and water.

## 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 (2025) [Statement on the update of maximum residue levels \(MRLs\) for copper compounds in light of the EFSA scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of the health-based guidance values \(HBGVs\) and exposure assessment from all sources](#). EFSA Journal, 23(2): e9271.

## Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation [...] as regards maximum residue levels for copper compounds in or on certain products [download]


[Draft](#) Annex II [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 copper compounds			
Food category	Products	Copper compounds (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	20	15
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	30	40
Pome fruits	Apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	5	6
Stone fruits	Apricots, (sweet)	5	3
	Cherries	5	10
	Peaches		8
	Plums		4
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	50	100
	Strawberries	5	15
	Blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries	5	15
Miscellaneous fruit	Figs	20	10
	Kaki/Japanese persimmons,	20	2*
	Kiwi fruits (green, red, yellow)	20	30
	Litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki	20	3
	Avocados	20	5
	Bananas, mangoes, pineapples	20	2
	Papayas	20	0.7
	Granate apples/pomegranates	20	5*
	Cherimoyas, guavas, breadfruits, soursops/guanabanas	20	3
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes	5	7
	Cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots	5	4
	Beetroots, carrots, celeriac/turnip rooted celeries, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	5	4
	Horseradishes	5	6
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots	5	3
	Spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions	5	70
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, aubergines/eggplants	5	10
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	5	20
	Okra/lady's fingers	5	2
	Melons, pumpkins, watermelons	5	10
	Sweetcorn	10	5
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers	20	5
	Brussels sprouts	20	9
	Head cabbages	20	2
	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales	20	30
	Kohlrabies	20	5
Continued...			

Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Copper compounds (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts/shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops (including Brassica spp.)	100	150
	Spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, watercresses, chervil, chives, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	20	150
	Grape leaves and similar species	20	30
	Witloofs/Belgian endives	20	2
	Celery leaves	50	150
Legume vegetables	Beans and peas (with and without pods), lentils	20	15
Stem vegetables	Asparagus	5	2
	Cardoons, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	20	2
	Leeks	20	70
	Globe artichokes	20	30
Fungi, mosses, lichens	Cultivated fungi	20	4
	Wild fungi	20	10
	Mosses and lichens	20	6
Algae and prokaryotes		20	8
Pulses	Beans, lentils, lupins/lupini beans	20	15
	Peas	20	10
Oilseeds	Linseeds, hemp seeds	30	20
	Peanut/groundnuts	30	10
	Sunflower seeds	40	30
	Rapeseeds/canola seeds	30	3
	Soyabeans	40	20
	Mustard seeds	30	6
	Pumpkin seeds	30	15
Oil fruits	Oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok	30	4
Cereals	Barley, common millet/proso millet	10	8
	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals, sorghum	10	20
	Oats, rye	10	5
	Rice	10	4
	Wheat	10	7
Teas		40	30
Coffee beans		50	20
Continued...			

Table 1 Continued			
Food category	Products	Copper compounds (mg/kg)	
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, rooibos	100	20
	Hibiscus/roselle	100	6
	Rose	100	10
	Jasmine	100	30
	Lime/linden, maté	100	15
	Valerian, ginseng	100	7
Cocoa beans		50	30
Carobs/St John's breads		20	4
Hops		1000	1500
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, dill, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, tamarind, saffron, mace	40	20
	Coriander, cumin, cinnamon	40	15
	Fennel, peppercorn (black, green, white)	40	30
	Cardamom	40	8
	Vanilla	40	6
	Liquorice, turmeric/curcuma	40	9
	Cloves, capers	40	7
Sugar plants	Sugar canes, chicory roots	5	1
Products of animal origin	Muscle, fat (swine)	5	1.5
	Muscle (goats)	5	6
	Muscle (other farmed terrestrial animals)	5	3
	Fat (poultry)	5	0.5
	Liver (swine)	30	60
	Liver (cattle, sheep, other farmed terrestrial animals)	30	300
	Liver (goats)	30	150
	Liver (horse, poultry)	30	8
	Kidney, edible offals (swine)	30	15
	Kidney, edible offals (cattle, sheep, other farmed terrestrial animals)	30	6
	Kidney, edible offals (goats)	30	4
	Kidney (horse)	30	9
	Edible offals (horse)	30	8
	Kidney, edible offals (poultry)	30	3
	Milk (cattle, sheep, horse)	2	1
	Milk (goats)	2	0.9
	Bird eggs (chicken, duck, geese, quail)	2	1
Honey and other apiculture products		–	1.5
* Limit of determination.  <a href="http://www.agrinfo.eu">www.agrinfo.eu</a>			

Source: based on [PLAN/2025/350 v1 D108179/02](#)

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