Maximum residue levels for copper

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Commission Regulation 2026/840 as regards maximum residue levels for copper compounds in or on certain products

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has amended the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for copper on certain products, as summarised in Table 1. This is based on updated scientific assessments by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which reviewed all sources of exposure including use as a pesticide, as well as natural presence in the environment.

The residue definition has been changed from “copper compounds (copper)” to “total copper”.

Actions

For other products not listed in Table 1, EFSA will be evaluating the possibility of lowering MRLs taking into account the natural presence of copper in those foods. There is an opportunity to submit data to EFSA in support of this evaluation until 2028 (see Full report for details).

Timeline

The new MRLs summarised in Table 1 apply from **6 May 2026**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to maximum residue levels related to copper

Food category	Products	Old MRL: for copper compounds (mg/kg)	New MRL: for total copper (mg/kg)
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, other pome fruits	5	6
Stone fruits	Cherries	5	10
	Peaches	5	8
Berries and small fruits	Table grapes, wine grapes	50	100
	Strawberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, other berries	5	15
Miscellaneous fruit	Kiwi fruits (green, red, yellow)	20	30
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes	5	7
	Horseradishes	5	6
Bulb vegetables	Spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions	5	70
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, aubergines/eggplants, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, other curcurbits (inedible peel)	5	10
	Sweet peppers/bell peppers	5	20
Brassica vegetables	Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, other leafy brassicas	20	30
Leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts and shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops (including brassica species), other lettuces	100	150
	Spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, other spinaches, watercresses, chervil, chives, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon, other herbs and edible flowers	20	150
	Grape leaves and similar species	20	30
	Celery leaves	50	150
Stem vegetables	Leeks	20	70
	Globe artichokes	20	30
Cereals	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals, sorghum	10	20
Hops		1,000	1,500
Products of animal origin:			
Swine	Liver	30	60
Cattle, sheep, poultry, other farmed terrestrial animals	Liver	30	300
Goat	Liver	30	150
	Muscle	5	6
Honey and other apiculture products		–	1.5
Amphibians and reptiles		–	6
Terrestrial vertebrate animals		–	6
Wild terrestrial invertebrate animals		–	70

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Source: based on Regulation 2026/840

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