

Maximum residue levels for ethephon

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Draft Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for dimoxystrobin, ethephon and propamocarb in or on certain products

Draft Annex PLAN/2024/1305 R2 DRAFT

Corrigendum Annex II PLAN/2024/1305 v4

What is changing and why?

When the EU renewed its approval for ethephon, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recommended lowering the acceptable daily intake (ADI) for this substance.

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to amend the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for ethephon ([G/SPS/N/EU/801](#)).

Revised MRLs will have a particular impact on exporters of **blueberries** where the MRL will be reduced to the limit of determination (LOD). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

On 23 June 2025 the European Commission published a corrigendum stating that the MRLs for ethephon on **tree nuts** (except hazelnuts and walnuts) are also lowered to the LOD in the draft Regulation.

The EU also proposes to lower the LOD on fruits, vegetables, cereals, sugar plants, and animal products from 0.05 to 0.02 or 0.01 mg/kg, and on oilseeds, oil fruits, teas, coffee, cocoa, and spices from 0.1 to 0.05 mg/kg. These product-specific LODs are analytically achievable and ensure compliance with updated safety and monitoring standards.

Actions

Suppliers of **apples, pineapples, rye, and wheat** should review their current use of ethephon and assess whether any changes will be needed to existing good agricultural practices (GAP) to ensure compliance with the new MRLs. Suppliers of **blueberries and nuts** in particular should evaluate their current use of ethephon and explore possible alternative solutions in anticipation of these MRL changes.


Feedback on the EU's proposal ([G/SPS/N/EU/801](#)) closed on 3 February 2025.

Timeline

New MRLs are expected to apply from approximately January 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.

Tables & Figures

| Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for ethephon | | | |
|--|--|------------------|---------|
| Food category | Products | Ethephon (mg/kg) | |
| | | Old MRL | New MRL |
| Tree nuts | Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios | 0.1 | 0.02* |
| Pome fruits | Apples | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| Berries and small fruits | Blueberries | 20 | 0.01* |
| Miscellaneous fruit | Pineapples | 2 | 1.5 |
| Cereals | Barley | 1 | 1.5 |
| | Rye | 1 | 0.8 |
| | Wheat | 1 | 0.5 |
| * Limit of determination.  www.agrininfo.eu | | | |

Source: based on [Draft Annex](#); [Corrigendum Annex II](#) PLAN/2024/1305 v4

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