

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

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. Based on this reduced ADI, the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for ethephon are now changing as set out in Table 1.

The EU also proposes lower the limit of determination (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** 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
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.agrinfo.eu			

Source: based on [Draft Annex](#)

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