Maximum residue levels for ethephon

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/215 as regards maximum residue levels for dimoxystrobin, ethephon and propamocarb in or on certain products

What is changing and why?

When the European Union (EU) renewed its approval for ethephon, the European Food Safety Authority recommended lowering the acceptable daily intake (ADI) for this substance. The EU has amended the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for ethephon as summarised in Table 1.

Revised MRLs will have a particular impact on exporters of **blueberries** and **tree nuts** (except hazelnuts and walnuts), for which 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.)

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 (GAPs) to ensure compliance with the new MRLs. Suppliers of **blueberries** and **affected nuts** in particular should evaluate their current use of ethephon and explore possible alternative solutions in anticipation of these MRL changes.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **19 August 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 for ethephon

Food category	Products	Ethephon (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins	0.05*	0.01*
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
	Quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars	0.05*	0.01*
Stone fruits	Apricots, peaches	0.05*	0.01*
Berries and small fruits	Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries	0.05*	0.01*
	Blueberries	20	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruit	Dates, kumquats, carambolas, jambuls/ jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/ Virginia kaki, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas	0.05*	0.01*
	Avocados	0.05*	0.02*
	Pineapples	2	1.5
Root and tuber vegetables	Potatoes, cassava roots/manioc, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriac/ turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg root parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	0.05*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions and Welsh onions	0.05*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergines/ eggplants, okra/lady's fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweet corn	0.05*	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabis	0.05*	0.01*
Leaf vegetables	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, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives	0.05*	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	0.05*	0.02*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with pods), beans (without pods), peas (with pods), peas (without pods), lentils	0.05*	0.01*
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.05*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses, and lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.05*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes	Algae and prokaryotes	0.05*	0.01*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, dried peas, lupins/lupini beans	0.05*	0.01*

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Table 1
Continued

Food category	Products	Ethephon (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Oilseeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, soyabeans, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans	0.1*	0.02*
Oil fruits	Oil palm kernels, oil palm fruits, kapok	0.05*	0.02*
Cereals	Barley	1	1.5
	Wheat	1	0.5
	Rye	1	0.8
	Buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, sorghum	0.05*	0.01*
Teas		0.1*	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
Herbal infusions	Chamomile, hibiscus/roselle, rose, jasmine, lime/linden, strawberry, rooibos, mate/maté, valerian, ginseng	0.1*	0.05*
Cocoa beans		0.1*	0.05*
Carobs/Saint John's breads		0.1*	0.05*
Hops		0.1*	0.05*
Spices	Anise/aniseed, black caraway/black cumin, celery, coriander, cumin, dill, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, allspice/pimento, Sichuan pepper, caraway, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, cinnamon, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, horseradish, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots	0.05*	0.01*
Milk	Cattle, sheep, goat, horse	0.05*	0.01*
Birds' eggs	Chicken, duck, geese, quail	0.05*	0.02*
Amphibians and reptiles		0.05*	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.05*	0.01*

* Limit of determination.

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Source: based on Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/215.

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