Maximum residue levels for metribuzin and metribuzin-DADK

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Draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr in or on certain products

Draft Annex V

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to reduce maximum residue levels (MRLs) for metribuzin to the limit of determination (LOD) on cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production, and to lower existing LODs on other products (see Table 1). (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.)

In 2024, the Commission decided not to renew its approval of the active substance metribuzin due to concerns about its endocrine-disrupting properties. Separate MRLs (at the LOD) for the metabolite metribuzin-DADK are also proposed because it can be present as a residue from the use of metribuzin (see Table 2).

Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production should review their current use of metribuzin and start to seek alternative (chemical or non-chemical) solutions in anticipation of the MRL reductions.

The WTO consultation on this draft Regulation closed on 1 February 2026.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in July 2026. It is expected that the new MRLs will apply from late 2026 or early 2027.

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 under discussion for maximum residue levels for metribuzin

Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Fruits	Grapefruits, oranges, lemons, limes, mandarins, apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats/Japanese medlars, apricots, cherries (sweet), peaches, plums, table grapes, wine grapes, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries, raspberries (red and yellow), blueberries, cranberries, currants (black, red, white), gooseberries (green, red, yellow), rose hips, mulberries (black and white), azaroles/Mediterranean medlars, elderberries, dates, figs, table olives, kumquats, carambolas, kaki/Japanese persimmons, jambuls/jambolans, kiwi fruits, litchis/lychees, passionfruits/maracujas, prickly pears/cactus fruits, star apples/cainitos, American persimmons/Virginia kaki, avocados, bananas, mangoes, papayas, granate apples/pomegranates, cherimoyas, guavas, pineapples, breadfruits, durians, soursops/guanabanas	0.1*	0.01*
Tree nuts	Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, chestnuts, coconuts, hazelnuts/cobnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nut kernels, pistachios, walnuts	0.1*	0.01*
Roots and tubers	Cassava roots/manioc	0.2	0.01*
	Potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, arrowroots, beetroots, carrots, celeriacs/turnip rooted celeries, horseradishes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips, parsley roots/Hamburg roots parsley, radishes, salsifies, swedes/rutabagas, turnips	0.1*	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	Garlic, onions, shallots, spring onions/green onions, Welsh onions	0.1*	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	Tomatoes, sweet peppers/bell peppers, aubergine/eggplants, okra/ladies' fingers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, pumpkins, watermelons, sweetcorn	0.1*	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, head cabbages, Chinese cabbages/pe-tsai, kales, kohlrabies	0.1*	0.01*
Leaf vegetables, herbs, edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, lettuces, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts/shoots, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops, spinaches, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, grape leaves, watercresses, witloofs/Belgian endives	0.1*	0.01*
	Chervil, chives, celery leaves, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and edible flowers, laurel/bay leaves, tarragon	0.1*	0.02*
	Land cresses	0.5	0.01*
Legume vegetables	Beans (with/without pods), peas (with/without pods), lentils	0.1*	0.01*

Continued…

Table 1 Continued (2 of 3)			
Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Stem vegetables	Asparagus, cardoons, celeries, Florence fennels, globe artichokes, leeks, rhubarbs, bamboo shoots, palm hearts	0.1*	0.01*
Fungi, mosses and lichens	Cultivated fungi, wild fungi, mosses and lichens	0.1*	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes organisms		0.1*	0.01*
Pulses	Beans, lentils, peas, lupins/lupini beans	0.1*	0.01*
Oil seeds	Linseeds, peanuts/groundnuts, poppy seeds, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/canola seeds, mustard seeds, pumpkin seeds, safflower seeds, borage seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, hemp seeds, castor beans, soyabeans, cotton seeds	0.1*	0.01*
Oil fruits	Olives for oil production	0.2	0.01*
	Oil palms kernels and fruits, kapok	0.1*	0.01*
Cereals	Barley, buckwheat and other pseudocereals, maize/corn, common millet/proso millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, wheat	0.1*	0.01*
Teas		0.1*	0.05*
Coffee beans		0.1*	0.05*
			Continued…

Table 1 Continued (3 of 3)			
Food category	Products	Metribuzin (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
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		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, cardamom, juniper berry, peppercorn (black, green, white), vanilla, tamarind, cinnamon, liquorice, turmeric/curcuma, cloves, capers, saffron, mace	0.1*	0.05*
Sugar plants	Sugar beet roots, sugar canes, chicory roots	0.1*	0.01*
Commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and other farmed terrestrial animals		0.1*	0.01*
Milk		0.1*	0.01*
Bird eggs		0.1*	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products		0.1*	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles		0.1*	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrates		0.1*	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals		0.1*	0.01*
* Limit of determination. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu			

Source: based on PLAN/2025/1086-Rev3 and Annex V.

Table 2 Changes under discussion for maximum residue levels for metribuzin-DADK	
Food category	Metribuzin-DADK
	New MRL (mg/kg)
Fruits	0.01*
Tree nuts	0.01*
Roots and tubers	0.01*
Bulb vegetables	0.01*
Fruiting vegetables	0.01*
Brassica vegetables	0.01*
Leaf vegetables	0.01*
Herbs and edible flowers	0.02*
Legume vegetables	0.01*
Stem vegetables	0.01*
Fungi, mosses, and lichens	0.01*
Algae and prokaryotes organisms	0.01*
Pulses	0.01*
Oil seeds	0.01*
Oil fruits	0.01*
Cereals	0.01*
Teas	0.05*
Coffee beans	0.05*
Herbal infusions	0.05*
Cocoa beans	0.05*
Carobs	0.05*
Hops	0.05*
Spices	0.05*
Sugar plants	0.01*
Commodities from swine, bovine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and other farmed terrestrial animals	0.01*
Milk	0.01*
Bird eggs	0.01*
Honey and other apiculture products	0.05*
Amphibians and reptiles	0.01*
Terrestrial invertebrates	0.01*
Wild terrestrial vertebrate animals	0.01*
* Limit of determination. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu	

Source: based on PLAN/2025/1086-Rev3 and Annex V.

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