

Maximum residue levels for phosphonic acid

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EU increases MRLs for phosphonic acid on barley, oats, rye, and wheat

Commission Regulation (EU) [2025/581](#) of 27 March 2025 amending Annexes II and IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for cycloxydim, dichlorprop-P, flupyradifurone, methyl nonyl ketone, plant oils/citronella oil, potassium sorbate and potassium phosphonate in or on certain products

Update

The European Union (EU) has increased the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for phosphonic acid on certain salads and cereals, globe artichokes, and poppy seeds.

Impacted products

Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, escaroles/broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts/shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket, red mustards, baby leaf crops, purslanes, chards/beet leaves, watercresses, globe artichokes, poppy seeds, barley, oats, rye

What is changing?

The EU has increased the MRLs for phosphonic acid on certain salads and cereals, globe artichokes, and poppy seeds as summarised in Table 1.

Why?

Following a request in relation to use of potassium phosphonates (a salt included in the definition of phosphonic acid), the MRLs for phosphonic acid have been updated based on new data evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA 2024](#)), which confirmed that the proposed levels are appropriate.

Timeline

The new MRLs apply from **17 April 2025**.

Background

In 2024 the EU changed its residue definition for fosetyl-Al, potassium phosphonates, and disodium phosphonates to “phosphonic acid and its salts” (see [Maximum residue levels for fosetyl-Al/phosphonic acid](#)).

MRLs are set in accordance with the rules set out in Regulation [396/2005](#). For information on current MRLs for other substances, please consult the [EU Pesticide Residues database](#).

Resources


EFSA (2024) [Modification of the existing maximum residue levels in various plant commodities resulting from the use of potassium phosphonates](#). EFSA Journal, 22(6): e8842.

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) [2025/581](#) as regards maximum residue levels for cycloxydim, dichlorprop-P, flupyradifurone, methyl nonyl ketone, plant oils/citronella oil, potassium sorbate and potassium phosphonate in or on certain products

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for phosphonic acid			
Food category	Products	Phosphonic acid and its salts expressed as phosphonic acid (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Leaf vegetables, herbs, edible flowers	Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, escaroles/ broad-leaved endives, cresses and other sprouts/shoots, land cresses, Roman rocket/rucola, red mustards, baby leaf crops	150	200
	Purslanes	100	200
	Chards/beet leaves	70	200
	Watercresses	1.5*	90
Stem vegetables	Globe artichokes	100	150
Oilseeds	Poppy seeds	1.5*	200
Cereals	Barley, oats, rye	1.5*	80
* Limit of determination. <div>  www.agrininfo.eu </div>			

Source: based on Regulation [2025/581](#)

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