

Maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl

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European Commission proposal to reduce MRLs on oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, mangoes, and papayas on hold

Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

Update

The European Commission has presented a draft proposal to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for thiophanate-methyl MRLs to the limit of determination (LOD) on oranges, grapefruits, mandarins, mangoes, and papayas. (The LOD is the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods.) Publication was originally foreseen for 2025. However, the Regulation is currently put on hold pending ongoing discussions within the Commission ([European Commission 2025b](#)).

This proposal follows the rejection by the European Parliament in September 2024 of a previous Commission proposal to maintain MRLs on limes and okra. The Parliament requested the Commission to reduce the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl MRL on all products to the LOD. See [Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen](#).

The new proposal is limited to those products for which acute health risks have been identified. Discussion of other MRLs that do not have implications for consumer health will be held at a later stage ([European Commission 2025a](#)).

Impacted products

Oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, mangoes, papayas

What is changing?

In February 2025, the European Commission presented a draft proposal to lower the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl to 0.01 mg/kg on oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, mangoes, and papayas due to acute health risks (see Table 1).

Why?

Thiophanate-methyl is no longer authorised in the EU because the manufacturer withdrew its new application for approval.

[EFSA \(2021\)](#) suggested reducing the MRLs to the LOD, except on certain products that are considered safe. It proposed increasing the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl on limes, aligning with good agricultural practices (GAP) observed in certain non-EU countries, and a lower MRL deemed safe for thiophanate-methyl on okra/ lady's fingers, also derived from the GAP in non-EU countries.

The Commission proposal is limited to those products for which acute health risks have been identified. Discussion of other MRLs identified by EFSA that do not have implications for consumer health will be held at a later stage

Timeline

Due to the acute health risk, the Commission proposes that the new MRLs should apply 3 months after the new Regulation is published, rather than the usual 6 months ([European Commission 2025a](#)). Publication was originally foreseen for 2025. However, the Regulation is currently put on hold pending ongoing discussions within the Commission ([European Commission 2025b](#)).

Recommended Actions

Suppliers to the EU market of **oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, mangoes**, and **papayas** should prepare for the thiophanate-methyl MRLs to be reduced to 0.01 mg/kg, taking into account the potentially short period for transition (see Timeline).

Background

In September 2024, the European Parliament rejected a Commission Regulation that proposed to reduce the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl to the LOD on all products except limes and okra (see [Maximum residue levels for benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, cyproconazole, and spirodiclofen](#)). The Parliament requested the Commission to withdraw its draft Regulation and present a new one, setting the MRLs for thiophanate-methyl MRL on all products to the LOD.

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 (2021) [Reasoned opinion on the toxicological properties and maximum residue levels \(MRLs\) for the benzimidazole substances carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl](#). EFSA Journal, 19(8): 6773.

European Commission (2025a) [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues. 17–18 February 2025. Summary Report](#).


European Commission (2025b) [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues. 23–24 June 2025. Agenda](#).

Sources

[Draft](#) Commission Regulation as regards maximum residue levels for carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl in or on certain products

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Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to maximum residue levels for thiophanate-methyl			
Food category	Products	Thiophanate-methyl (mg/kg)	
		Old MRL	New MRL
Citrus fruit	Grapefruit, mandarins, oranges	6	0.01*
Miscellaneous fruits	Mangoes, papayas	1	0.01*
* Limit of determination.			
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Source: based on [Draft](#) Commission Regulation

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