Ag-Chem Update

June 2026 (update)

MT24008 – Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination
DTS Regulatory Consultants **16 February 2025 to 15 May 2026**

This newsletter is designed to provide Australian horticulture industries with timely, practical updates on regulatory changes affecting agricultural chemicals, pesticide use, international MRL developments, and related compliance matters. Its purpose is to help grower bodies, industry groups and supply-chain stakeholders understand emerging regulatory risks and opportunities, support informed decision-making, and ensure early awareness of changes that may influence chemical access, market requirements, or crop protection strategies across the horticulture sector.

NATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

APVMA News

APVMA has updated its 2026–2030 chemical review priorities, which means more chemicals are now flagged for closer review over the next few years. The list does not mean these chemicals are immediately suspended or cancelled, but it does signal that APVMA expects to re-check the contemporary safety, residue, trade and environmental data for each one, where relevant.

Prioritised chemical reconsiderations

Chemical	Start date[#]	Reasons for prioritisation
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	2026	Environment, health, residues and trade.
Group 4 – Phenoxy – carboxylate herbicides: 2,4-DB Dichlorprop MCPA MCPB Mecoprop	2026	Spray drift assessment regarding risks to vegetation areas and natural aquatic areas.
Dimethoate	2027	Both to be reviewed in parallel as omethoate is a more toxic breakdown product of dimethoate,
Omethoate		
		focus on human health, residues and trade.
Flupropanate	2027	Persistence in soil, and risks to the environment. Also a need for contemporary human health, and residues and trade risk assessments.
Methomyl	2028	Contemporary risk assessments for environment, as well as residues in food to ensure appropriate margins of safety and the risk to trade is appropriately managed.
Phorate	2028	Risks related to human health, and residues in food to ensure appropriate margins of safety. Contemporary risk assessments for the environment, particularly invertebrates including bees, and aquatic species.
Chlorothalonil	2029	Canada and USA highlighting concerns relating to human health and the environment. Contemporary residues and trade risk assessments also required.
Propargite	2029	Updated human health, and residues and trade risk assessments are required. Contemporary assessment of the risks to the environment.
Dithiocarbamates: Mancozeb Metiram Propineb Thiram Zineb Ziram	2030	Contemporary risk assessments for the environment, and residues and trade. This group shares a common metabolite and are expected to be reviewed by the international Joint Meeting of Pesticide Residues (JMPR), which

Chemical	Start date#	Reasons for prioritisation
		may lead to Codex changes. The timing is to allow utilisation of the JMPR review.

This information may be subject to change if new chemical-relevant risk information emerges.

The APVMA has released its **Regulatory Posture Statement 2026–30**, setting out how it intends to regulate agricultural and veterinary chemicals in a more transparent, predictable, timely and risk-based manner. For agricultural industries, this signals a focus on directing regulatory resources to the highest risks while supporting access to effective AgVet chemical products, agricultural productivity, innovation, biosecurity and trade. Applicants, registrants and industry bodies should expect clearer expectations and stronger engagement from the APVMA but also continued emphasis on data-driven decisions and protection of human health, animals and the environment.

The APVMA has certified that it is in the public interest any second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, including products containing **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, difethialone and flocoumafen**, be declared restricted chemical products (RCPs) due to risks to non-target animals, including native wildlife, pets and livestock. The Australian Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry is seeking public comment on the proposal and the potential impacts. The proposed restrictions may ultimately limit access to these products to appropriately trained or licensed users. Submit your feedback by **5 pm (AEST) on 11 June 2026.**

Presentations from the APVMA hosted *Advancing Sustainability in Agriculture: Enabling Precision Application of Crop Protection Products by Inclusion in Regulatory Approaches (Processes)*, also known as EPAC2026 are available here.

APVMA's Q2 2025-2026 quarterly report shows the regulator's actions to minimise applications for generic products to allow more effort on novel products and uses, has resulted in more overdue technical applications being finalised and so a lower % finalised in time. **60.4% of agricultural chemical product applications and 60.6% permit applications on time**. **However, only 58.9% of technical applications, i.e., involving new product types or new product uses, were completed on time.**

Chemical Reviews

Key Ones to Watch

At the recent APVMA Agricultural Stakeholders Meeting the following updates were provided:

Paraquat / Diquat - Final regulatory decisions following review of a very large amount of public comment and new information is still on track to be delivered 'mid-2026'. Significant restrictions in use are likely due to the high level risks previously identified.

Anticoagulant rodenticides - Proposed decision was published 16 December 2025. Public comment ended 16 March 2026. APVMA suspended registration of all second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides on 10 March 2026 to enable the APVMA to issue new instructions for use that must be provided with all supplies of these products. APVMA considered risks to non-target animals were so high that immediate action was required to manage the risk. **Users must follow the new instructions.** The final decision for this review is not expected until at least quarter 3 of 2026.

Fipronil – the proposed regulatory decision for agricultural products is currently published as April 2026, however, is not expected until after the Paraquat/Diquat and anticoagulant rodenticide reviews are completed. The final regulatory decisions are not expected until end of 2026. **Risks to bees and pollinators have been identified internationally, however all risk areas are being considered.**

Neonicotinoids including Imidacloprid - Publication of the proposed regulatory decisions for individual neonicotinoid actives are not expected until late 2026 at the earliest. Dinotefuran is expected to be first, meaning others are not expected until 2027. **Risks to bees and pollinators have been identified internationally, however other environmental areas and worker safety are being considered also.**

New review process –APVMA again mentioned that new reviews may not officially start until an extensive pre-review analysis has been conducted to see what are the current known risks, how products are used in Australia using industry feedback, and what has been done internationally. **This pre-review consultation process is expected to allow a more streamlined review process, more opportunity for real farming use patterns to be considered** and better transition planning if changes are needed to pesticide labels.

Low regulatory Burden Pathways

APVMA stakeholder meetings continue to discuss how best to use existing low regulatory burden pathways. These pathways are designed to align regulatory effort to low-risk products by use of standards and similar methods.

Grower Outcome

- Faster access to lower risk products, potentially including biologicals
- Supports IPM and sustainability

Revisit of permits to label pathway

APVMA is again looking at how best to keep moving acceptable minor use permits to label to avoid the permit renewal cycle and better spend resources. An industry meeting will be held in early June to discuss further.

Significant Registrations & Label Extensions

Corteva Agriscience Australia Pty Ltd
Success Neo Jemvelva Active Insecticide
120 g/L spinetoram
Label extension to add fall armyworm in peppers, ginger and sweet corn, additional pests in cacao and bell injection in bananas.

Corteva Agriscience Australia Pty Ltd
Verpixo Adavelt Active Fungicide
100 g/L florylpicoxamid
Label extension to add the use on bananas.

Adama Australia Pty Ltd.
Folpan 800 WG Fungicide
800 g/kg Folpet
For the control of downy mildew, powdery mildew and other fungal pathogens in grapes.

BASF Australia Ltd.
Basta Ultra Herbicide
211 g/L glufosinate-P-ammonium
For the control of a range of weeds in fruit crops, vineyards, tree nuts, various vegetables, sugarcane, non-crop situations, summer fallows and tea tree.

Proposals for registration:
APVMA is proposing to register the following new products:

Elemental Enzymes Australia Pty Ltd
Vismax Specialty Fungicide, containing:
Flg22-Bt Peptide
For use on almonds to suppress shot hole disease caused by *Wilsonomyces carpophilus*.

Valent Biosciences A Div Of Sumitomo Chemical Australia
Accede Plant Growth Regulator, containing:
1-Aminocycloprane-1-carboxylic acid
For crop thinning in Apples, Nectarines, Peaches and Plums.

Changes to the MRL Standard and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code can be found in the latest APVMA gazettes:

*An * indicates the residue is set at the analytical limit of quantitation for that active constituent.*
A T indicates a temporary MRL (requires further data to support a permanent MRL).

Azoxystrobin

- Spices [except peppers, chili, dried] - *0.1 mg/kg
- Chervil, Coriander seed, Fennel seed, Mizuna & Rucola (Rocket) – T70 mg/kg
- Leafy vegetables [except chervil; mizuna; rucola (rocket)] – 15 mg/kg
- Spices [except coriander seed; fennel seed; peppers, chili, dried] - *0.1 mg.kg
- Fennel, bulb – T10 mg/kg

Cyclobutrifluram

- Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits - 0.1 mg/kg
- Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits - *0.01 mg/kg
- All other foods - 0.2 mg/kg

Cyclaniliprole

- Leafy vegetables [except brassica leafy vegetables; leafy greens] - 4 mg/kg (was 3)

Fluopyram

- Ginger root - *0.01 mg/kg
- Ginger root, dried - 0.1 mg/kg

Clothianidin

- Pistachio nut – T0.05 mg/kg

Fluazinam

- Potato T0.1 mg/kg (was *0.01)

Ipconazole

- All other foods except animal commodities - 0.01 mg/kg

Isocycloseram

- Pistachio nut – T*0.01 mg/kg

The following table outlines APVMA permits granted for horticultural use from **16 November 2025 to 15 February 2026**.

Permit No.	Description	Expiry date
PER97200	THIRAM 800 or 600 / **Spinach & Silverbeet**/ Seed rot, seedling blight and damping off	31-Mar-2027
PER96824	CYANAMIDE / Cherries / Dormancy breaker to advance bloom	30-Apr-2031
PER96823	Acelepryn (Chlorantraniliprole) / Azaleas & Rhododendrons / Azalea Lace Bug	31-May-2031
PER96806	Spinosad / Various vegetables & herbs / Dipteran leaf miners	30-May-2031
PER96797	MagMED (Deltamethrin, Ammonium Acetate, Trimethylamine Hydrochloride and others) / Citrus, Pome, Stonefruit, Grapes and Tropical Fruit / Mediterranean Fruit Fly	30-Apr-2031
PER96693	Isocycloseram / Cane berries, bush berries, low growing berries / Chilli thrips	30-Apr-2031
PER96400	Indoxacarb / Strawberries (protected) / Green Mirid	30-Apr-2029
PER95763	Payback (Paclobutrazol) / Potato / Canopy management	30-Apr-2031

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATE

Codex

The **Summary report of the 2026 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)** has been published. This report summarises the assessments undertaken on data available to support new MRLs for the Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting (CAC49) to be held in September 2026. The report considered MRLs for 38 active constituents, many of which are used in horticultural crops. However**, it appears no MRLs proposed were less than what currently exists in Australia for the same compound in the same commodity**. Other relevant outcomes:

- **Dimethoate:** No residue evaluation of residues was conducted by the present meeting.
- **Ipflufenoquin**: No recommendations were made as the definition of residue for estimation of dietary intake for animal commodities was not concluded.
- **Malathion:** No recommendations were made as the residue definitions for estimation of dietary intake for plant and animal commodities were not concluded.
- **Permethrin:** No evaluation of residues was conducted by the present meeting.

Further action on these actives may occur in future years based on available resources.

Canada

Health Canada is starting a project plan for a **cumulative health risk assessment** of **organophosphate pesticides (OPs)**, which means it will assess combined exposure to multiple OPs that share a common nervous-system toxicity mechanism rather than reviewing each active ingredient only on its own. The agency says 29 OPs will be included, and it expects to publish a proposed cumulative assessment for public consultation in **early**

2030 because it has to wait for current individual re-evaluations to finish first. **APVMA may consider similar risk assessments if the methodology is considered suitable. This will potentially lead to further restrictions on use of OPs in horticulture.**

European Union (EU)

- Poland has published rules lowering the maximum residue levels (MRLs) on certain foods for carbendazim (including benomyl), glufosinate, and thiophanate-methyl. This was notified to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee on 20 May (G/SPS/N/POL/26). **These pesticides are not approved for use in the European Union (EU) but can be used on certain products that are exported to the EU provided that the current MRLs are not exceeded.**
- The new European Biotech Act is aimed at making the EU biotechnology sector more competitive by simplifying regulation and speeding up innovation and market access. The main significance is that it could accelerate new biotech products and influence future global trade and regulatory trends. **A number of reviews of Australian agricultural related biotech regulations are ongoing at present.**
- The EU has updated and clarified its rules for recycled plastic used in food packaging, tightening the compliance framework around which recycled materials and processes can be used**. Food-packaging exporters and suppliers need to prove the recycled plastic is safe and properly authorise.** For Australian growers and exporters, it matters because packaging rules can affect the acceptability of export packaging into Europe and may add cost or compliance steps for fresh produce supply chains.
- The European Union (EU) has notified the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee of a draft proposal to increase the MRLs for imazalil on bananas and citrus fruits. It is also proposed to reduce the MRL for imazalil on melons to the limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods), with more minor reductions to the MRLs on courgettes, cucumbers, and gherkins.

South America

Brazilian regulatory agencies MAPA and ANVISA continue to make progress on improving regulatory processes. Reporting in early 2026 that pesticide and biological-product registrations reached a new record in 2025, suggesting the regulatory pipeline remains very active.

United Kingdom

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published new MRLS for:

- Prosulfocarb - **Herbs and edible flowers**
- Cyantraniliprole - **Various leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers**
- Flupyradifurone and Difluoroacetic acid (DFA) – **strawberries, brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables & leafy vegetables (including brassica leafy vegetables**).
- Imazalil – **citrus, banana, courgettes**.
- Mefentrifluconazole – **strawberry, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, gherkins and courgettes**.

BCPC have advised:

- **Sumitomo's** *Xen Tari WG* (M21497, *Bacillus thuringiensis aizawai ABTS-1857*) is approved for use against insect pests in a range of crops including **brassicas, leeks, lettuce, spinach, apples, pears, table & wine grapes, protected broad, dwarf and runner beans** and named protected crops under permanent protection with full enclosure, all with just a 1-day harvest interval.
- **Certis Belchim** has *Areli* a novel **potato fungicide** containing cyazofamid + valifenalate.
- **Syngenta** has a new chlorantraniliprole approval in *Lanzarta* which is approved for caterpillar control in **protected ornamentals**.
- **ISKs** *Mainman* (flonicamid) has a minor use extension allowing treatment **of peppers and chillies** until 31/5/2029.
- **BASF's** *Filan* (boscalid) has new minor uses allowing treatment of **poppies, seed crops, cabbages, grapes, borage, canary flower, honesty, corn gromwell, evening primrose, linseed and mustard**.
- *Anthem* (pendimethalin) has 3 new minor use allowing pre-em application to **broad beans, game cover and bulb onions, garlic & shallots** whether drilled, transplanted or from sets. It also

allows post emergence application up until before the second leaf is visible**.**

- *Rudis* (prothioconazole) has just gained a minor use allowing treatment of **celeriac for *Septoria***.
- **Privest** (ametoctradin + potassium phosphonates) has just gained a minor use allowing treatment of **white tip in leeks**.
- ***SL 567A*** (metalaxyl-M) has a minor use allowing treatment of **root rots in blackberries, raspberries, loganberries and rubus hybrids**.
- ***Vayo*** (mefentrifluconazole) now has a minor use allowing treatment of **powdery mildew, anthracnose and various leaf spots in blackcurrants, redcurrants, mulberries and blueberries.**

USA

The US EPA has approved **CarriCea T1**, a gene-edited citrus rootstock that helps citrus trees defend themselves against **citrus greening (HLB)**, a bacterial disease that has destroyed over 90% of Florida's citrus production in the past two decades. The rootstock works by making precise edits to the tree's own genes (not adding foreign DNA), disrupting the interaction between the citrus plant and the greening bacteria so trees can limit infection on their own.

To support the approval, the EPA established an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance (MRL) for residues of the Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) strain T36 expressing Spinach Defensin Proteins SoD2, SoD2- 1, and SoD2* in or on the food and feed commodities of citrus. Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) strain T36 has been genetically engineered to express spinach defensin proteins (SoD2, SoD2-1, and SoD2*). These defensins are natural antimicrobial peptides from spinach that have been shown to confer tolerance to citrus greening (HLB) and potato zebra chip disease.

EPA has revoked and set new **Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances (MRLs) for many horticultural crops**.

Funding Statement:
MT24008 – Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination
This multi-industry project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.