

Rhubarb Agrichemical Regulatory Risk Assessment

November 2025

Regulatory pressures on agrichemicals are increasing globally, with many being either restricted or withdrawn from use. For older agrichemicals, these pressures are often the result of reconsiderations involving new or refined risk assessment methodologies that require the generation of new data. A consequence of which can be that many of these agrichemicals are not meeting contemporary risk assessment standards as the necessary data is unavailable, or where data is available, the risk posed is considered unacceptable.

The use of agrichemicals can also be impacted through differences in standards between trading partners. The lack of an appropriate pesticide maximum residue limit (MRL) in an importing country can, for practical purposes, effectively prohibit use in the exporting country to ensure compliance, as MRL breach would adversely affect market access.

The effects of the above are greater regulatory pressure placed on the use of individual agrichemicals or chemical groups. Consequently, the number of approved agrichemical options could be adversely impacted.

To assist strategic planning, with respect to future pest management options, the following tables have been developed to highlight the regulatory threats to agrichemicals currently approved for the management of the pests and diseases in **rhubarb crops** in Australia, as well as assisting with any current initiatives aimed at identifying and addressing pest management deficiencies.

R0	Use no longer approved
R1	Short-term: Critical concern over retaining access < 1 year
R2	Medium-term: Maintaining access of significant concern <2-5 years
R3	Long-term: Potential issues associated with use – Monitoring required < 5 years
R4	No current risk/concerns

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INSECTICIDES/MITICIDES/NEMATOCIDES - Insect and other pests

Blue text = new APVMA approved uses

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
ABAMECTIN	6	Broad mite	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration and spray drift assessment . Canada: Re-evaluation finalised. Label amendments to mitigate risks to human health and environment (July, 2025)
AFIDOPYROPEN	9D	Green peach aphid Cabbage aphid Currant lettuce aphid Cotton aphid / Melon aphid Corn aphid	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	11A	Armyworm Cotton bollworm Native budworm Cabbage moth Cabbage white butterfly Caterpillar Green looper Light brown apple moth Caterpillar pear loopers Vine moth	Australia: No current concerns. USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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CANOLA OIL PYRETHRINS	3A	Aphids Thrips Caterpillars Whitefly Ants Flies Earwigs Leafhopper Two-spotted mite Scale Mealybug Sooty mould	Australia: No current concerns
CHLORANTRANILIPROLE	28	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns. Canada: In re-evaluation
CHLORPYRIFOS	1B	--	Australia: The chemical review was completed in September 2024. Most uses in horticultural crops were removed. After 30 September 2025, products with previously approved labels must not be supplied. The only remaining approved use is in Brassica crops as specified on current labels. EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Agricultural uses cancelled. Very few registrations as Restricted Use Pesticide.
CYROMAZINE	17	Permit PER81867 for the control of leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER81867 Expiry date: 30/09/2026 EU: Not approved
Diazinon	1B	Caterpillars Cutworms	Australia: Australia: APVMA made a Final Decision on 2024. After 10 September 2025, crop uses are no longer approved. . Codex: All MRLs deleted EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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DIMETHOATE	1B	Aphids Bugs/Green vegetable bug Jassids Leafhoppers Leafminer flies Mites Thrips	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2029. EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
FLUBENDIAMIDE	28	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved UK: Withdrawn (2024).
HELICOVERPA NPV	--	Helicoverpa	Australia: No current concerns.
PHOSPHOROUS ACID		Permit PER86805 for the control of: Green Peach Aphid Green Looper Light Brown Apple Moth Budworms	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER86805 Expiry date: 31/10/2028
PIPERONYL BUTOXIDE PYRETHRINS	3A	Ants Aphids Caterpillars Leaf hoopers Thrips	Australia: No current concerns.
PYRIPROXYFEN	7C	Ants	Australia: No current concerns.
SPINETORAM	5	Permit PER94451 for the control of leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER94451 Expiry date: 31/07/2027 EU: Not approved UK: Withdrawn (2024). Canada: In re-evaluation

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SPINOSAD	5	Permit PER89870 for the control of Fall Armyworm Permit PER94331 for the control of Dipteran leaf miners	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER89870 Expiry date: 31/10/2030 Permit PER94331 Expiry date: 30/04/2026 Canada: In re-evaluation
SPIROTETRAMAT	23	Cotton aphid Green peach aphid Plague thrips Tomato thrips Western flower thrips Permit PER88640 for the control of Liriomyza leafminers	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER88640 Expiry date: 28/02/2026 EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation
TRICHLORFON	1B	Cabbage moth Cabbage white butterfly Green vegetable bug Rutherglen bug	Australia: APVMA nominated for reconsideration after 2029. EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)

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FUNGICIDES – Disease Control

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
CHLOROTHALONIL	M5	Ascochyta leaf spot	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2028. Codex MRL: 7 mg/Kg EU: Not approved Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
COPPER	M1	Downy mildew Leaf spots Phytophthora crown rot Rust	Australia: No current concerns.
MANCOZEB	M3	Downy mildew Rust	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved UK: Withdrawn (2024). USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
MANCOZEB METALAXYL	M3 + 4	Downy mildew	MANCOZEB Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. METALAXYL Australia: No current concerns. EU: Approved, candidate for substitution. Canada: In re-evaluation
PHOSPHOROUS (PHOSPHONIC) ACID	P07 (33)	Permit PER86805 for the control of Downy mildew	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER86805 Expiry date: 31/10/2028
SULPHUR	M2	Powdery Mildew Bean Rust Tomato Russet Mite Bean Spider Mite Twospotted Mite	Australia: No current concerns. Canada: In re-evaluation

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Active Constituent	MoA Group	Pest	Risks and Comments
THIRAM	M3	Damping off	Australia: APVMA reconsideration. Prioritised to be commenced by 2027. EU: Not approved Canada: Only approved for seed treatment.

HERBICIDES – Weed Control

Active Constituent	MoA Group	Risks and Comments
CLETHODIM	1	Australia: No current concerns. Permit PER82459 Expiry date: 30/09/2026
DIQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review. Publication of the final regulatory decision is expected now in Mid 2026. EU: Not approved USA: No agricultural uses allowed. Aquatic herbicide.
FLUAZIFOP-P PRESENT AS THE BUTYL ESTER	1	Australia: APVMA Nominated for targeted spray drift reconsideration Canada: Cancelled
MCPA	4	Australia: Chemical reconsideration for Group 4 - Phenoxy-carboxylate herbicides. Spray drift. Prioritised for Q3 2025. Permit PER13152 Expiry date: 30/09/2026 Canada: In re-evaluation USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
PARAQUAT	22	Australia: APVMA: Currently under review. Publication of the final regulatory decision is expected now in Mid 2026. Candidate chemical recommended to be listed to Rotterdam Convention. EU: Not approved Canada: Cancelled USA: Restricted use
S-METOLACHLOR	15	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved

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FUMIGANTS – Mixed Function

Active Constituent	Use	Risks and Comments
CHLOROPICRIN + 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	Control of soil borne diseases, plant parasitic Nematodes, Symphylans and Wireworms	CHLOROPICRIN Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved USA: Restricted use 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE Australia: No current concerns. EU: Pending Canada: Cancelled
DAZOMET	Control of bacterial spot (Xanthomonas spp.) (suppression only). Soil insects and nematodes	Australia: No current concerns. USA: Under Registration Review (scheduled)
ETHANEDINITRILE	Soil borne pathogens, nematodes and weeds	Australia: No current concerns.
ETHYL FORMATE	Post harvest fumigant for the control of Detritus moth	Australia: No current concerns. EU: Not approved
METHAM PRESENT AS SODIUM SALT	Germinating weeds and soil-borne fungus diseases	Australia: No current concerns.

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