

ARTICLE PREPARED FOR MELONS AUSTRALIA

Proposed regulatory decision for chlorpyrifos

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has published its [proposed regulatory decision](#) in relation to the authority's review of chlorpyrifos, an insecticide used for the control of pests in various agricultural, horticultural, commercial and veterinary situations.

Impact on melon uses

There are several chemical products containing chlorpyrifos currently approved for use on melons for the control of insect pests. The APVMA's proposed regulatory decision does not support the use of chlorpyrifos on melons, based on worker exposure and/or residues concerns. A summary of assessment outcomes is provided in Table 1 below. The APVMA is proposing to remove the use of chlorpyrifos chemical products on melons, through varying or cancelling chlorpyrifos chemical products and associated label approvals.

Further information and a summary of the underlying risk assessments are available in the [Review Technical Report](#) and [APVMA Gazette, 12 December 2023](#).

Table 1: Melons – summary of assessment outcomes in the chlorpyrifos proposed regulatory decision

Crop/host	Pest	Rate	Assessment outcome
Cucurbits	White flies	250 g ac/ha <i>(25 g ac/100 L water, applied using 1,000 L water/ha)</i>	Not supported* – safety (residues) concerns identified.
	Ants, mealybugs	500 g ac/ha <i>(50 g ac/100 L water, applied using 1,000 L water/ha)</i>	Not supported* – safety (residues and worker exposure) concerns.

* These use patterns have not been reconsidered in the environment assessment due to the human health and/or food safety concerns identified. Additional environmental concerns not indicated in Table 1 may therefore exist for these use patterns.

What happens next?

The APVMA published the proposed regulatory decision on 12 December 2023 and is now undertaking a [3-month public consultation](#), which will close on 11 March 2024.

During the consultation period the APVMA invites submissions from stakeholders, including holders and the general public, on the proposed decision.

Once the public consultation period has concluded, the APVMA will consider the submissions received and whether the matters raised would change any aspects of the proposed decision before making its final decision and taking regulatory action.

How do I make a submission?

Information on [how to make a submission](#) is available on the APVMA website.

When making your submission, please include reasons for your comments, supporting them, if possible, with relevant scientific information and indicating the source of the information you have used.

When will a final decision come into effect?

Publication of the final regulatory decision is expected in July 2024. The APVMA will consider all submissions received during the consultation period before making its final regulatory decision.

The APVMA has proposed that, in the event a decision to vary or cancel chlorpyrifos chemical products is made, a 12-month phase out period could be applied to the affected products.

I have chlorpyrifos product; can I still use it?

Registered chemical products containing chlorpyrifos can continue to be used during the consultation period, in accordance with the approved label instructions. Information about registered products can be found on the APVMA's [PubCRIS](#) database.

What about chlorpyrifos permit uses?

The status of permits was not specifically considered in the chlorpyrifos review. The APVMA only considers registrations and approvals under the reconsideration process, not off-label or permitted uses. However, the final outcome of the reconsideration is expected to impact the APVMA's current satisfaction of several existing permits, as the assessments undertaken for permits rely on the APVMA's satisfaction of similar uses on registered products.

The APVMA will be in a position to consider relevant permits that allow the use of chlorpyrifos once it has made a final regulatory decision for the reconsideration of chlorpyrifos.

Are there alternative registered products?

The APVMA maintains a searchable database of registered products ([PubCRIS](#)), which allows the public to search for chemicals registered for the control of specific pests on various crops.