



Media correction request

Michael West Media: Menace to ecology and consumers. No thrill for Barnaby on blueberry hill.

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are established by the APVMA for levels which are consistent with good agricultural practice as set out on the product label. The MRLs are assessed to ensure that consuming food containing the chemical at the maximum level would not pose a risk to human health. Withholding periods are required to ensure residue levels at harvest do not exceed the MRL.

The APVMA prioritises human health, and if the withholding period required to ensure residue levels are below the MRL was incompatible with the intended use for a product, that use would not be allowed. For blueberries, data indicated that a one day withholding period was sufficient.

MRLs are incorporated into a Food Standard, and the sale of produce with levels exceeding the MRL is not permissible by law in Australia. The APVMA will take action if we are concerned that an agvet chemical product is not safe or effective (including if residue levels in food following use of a product in accordance with the label exceed the MRL). This may include amending the product label to restrict the legal use of the product, or cancelling the product registration entirely. It was on this basis that the APVMA amended the use of dimethoate products to remove a number of post-harvest dipping uses in 2023 and cancelled the registration of chlorthal dimethyl products in 2024.

Stakeholders with questions about the above may contact:

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
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