

Think Water

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## What's the issue?

A number of herbicides used to treat arable crops are being detected in water. One of the aims of the Voluntary Initiative (VI) is to encourage best practice use of plant protection products (PPP's) as part of an Integrated Pest Management-based (IPM) approach to crop protection.

## Which herbicides are affected?

When cereal, oilseed rape and grass crops are being treated with herbicide to control weeds, care must be taken to make sure that weather and soil conditions are adhered to, when specified on the product label to ensure these active substances don't find their way to water courses. Manufacturers often provide additional water protection information on their websites.

## How does this affect me?

BASiS qualified agronomists, farmers, farm managers and sprayer operators, each have a specific role to play when recommending, planning and applying PPP's. Whilst profitable, efficient and safe food production are vital, the protection of our environment is also paramount.

## So what is being done?

The VI is working with water companies and the farming and crop protection industry to raise awareness of the issue, improve practices and develop new tools that will support farmers in continuing their responsible use of herbicides.

See overleaf for steps you can take to help



# What can I do to help?



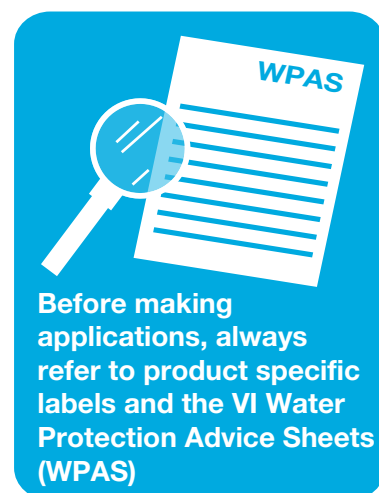
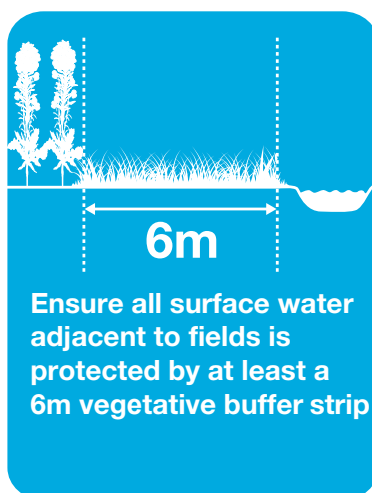
Use [http://bit.ly/EA\\_Farmers](http://bit.ly/EA_Farmers) to find out if your land is in a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSgZ)



If you are farming in a DWSgZ, speak to your local water company catchment officer to understand the potential risk on a field-by-field basis, or speak to your agronomist



Implement best practice agronomy to help protect water



## Where do I get more information?

For the VI Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan go to:  
<https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/schemes/integrated-pest-management/>

For the 'Check it Out Tool' and advice on:

- Soil management
  - Buffer strips
  - Filling and handling
- go to: [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk)

If in any doubt, ask your BASIS qualified agronomist for their advice.



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The  
Voluntary  
Initiative

Championing Integrated Pest Management