

Metazachlor and Quinmerac

Introduction

Metazachlor and quinmerac have been detected in drinking water sources, and unless extra care is taken to reduce the risks to water there is a serious risk that their use may be restricted.

Metazachlor is moderately mobile and quinmerac highly mobile so field losses from run-off and drain flow matter as does good practice during application and when filling and cleaning the sprayer.

Field drainage

Many autumn and winter applied pesticides are lost from the field when drains are running so drained land is much more likely to pose a greater risk to water than undrained land. To reduce this risk on drained land including mole-drained, avoid use of metazachlor or quinmerac after 30th September and do not use after 15th October.

In high risk areas, i.e. drained fields in Safeguard Zones (see advice on right), do not use metazachlor or quinmerac after 30th September.

Follow VI best practice to protect water

- Fill sprayer in a bunded area and clear up any spills immediately
- Ensure there is a 6m grass buffer strip next to water courses
- Wash sprayer down in the field or in a bunded area
- Do not apply when soils are cracked, dry or saturated, or if drains are flowing.
- Do not apply if heavy rainfall is expected within 48 hours of application as this can lead to significantly higher losses to water.

Maximum dose: 750g metazachlor/ha*, 250g quinmerac/ha

- Lower dose rates reduce the risk of movement to water and can give equivalent control especially when applied in combination with other herbicides. Check required dose with your BASIS-registered adviser.

High Risk Areas

Drained fields including mole-drained in Surface Water Drinking Water Safeguard Zones[#] for metazachlor and/or quinmerac

Do NOT apply metazachlor or quinmerac after 30th September.

Reducing the risk (applications before 1st October)

Ensure at least 6 of the following criteria are met as the risk to water will be significantly reduced:-

- | | ✓ or X |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Soils are moist and NOT dry, cracked or saturated. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Field drains are NOT flowing and are unlikely to flow within 7 days of application. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Field slope is less than 5% (a 5% gradient is 1 metre fall in 20 metres). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The field is NOT bordered by a watercourse. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Metazachlor* is applied at less than 750g ai/ha or quinmerac at less than 250g ai/ha, especially in combination with other herbicides. Check required dose with your BASIS-registered adviser. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The field has a 5m no-spray zone or 6m grass buffer strip adjacent to water. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The field has NOT been deep sub-soiled (below plough layer) in the preceding 6 months. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The crop has been established early with minimum tillage of only the top 4-6 cms or by direct drilling. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. There is NO risk of heavy rainfall within 48 hours of application. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

[#] See the Environment Agency's "Check for Zones" website <http://bit.ly/CheckZone>

*Label restrictions still apply. A maximum total dose of not more than 1000g metazachlor/hectare may be applied in a 3-year period on the same field.