



OSR Herbicides?
Think Water

Herbicide application

Oilseed rape plays a valuable part in many farm rotations as a break and 'cleaning' crop, especially where black-grass is a problem. However, keeping herbicides out of drinking water sources is key to preventing restrictions on use, or even loss of the products.







Why does application matter?

Following best practice when applying herbicides to oilseed rape will ensure optimum performance from the products. However, paying attention to detail, especially weather and soil conditions, will also minimise the risk of herbicide loss from the field to watercourses.

THE KEY
HERBICIDES
carbetamide
clopyralid
metazachlor
propryzamide
quinmerac

Weather

Pay close attention to weather conditions both for optimal weed control and to minimise the risk of herbicides reaching water:

-  Use rolling 5-day weather forecasts to plan applications.
-  Do not spray when heavy rain or snow is predicted within 48 hours of application. (Heavy rain is defined as more than 10mm in 24 hours.)
-  Do not spray if drains are already running and soil is waterlogged, wait for soil to dry.
-  Apply residual herbicides to moist, but not excessively moist, soil.
-  Delay treatment on dry, cracked fields until rain has re-wetted soil and closed cracks.
-  The longer the gap between application and heavy rainfall the better, this gives more time for the herbicide to attach to soil particles

WaterAware is an app, developed by Adama, to forecast the risk of certain active ingredients moving from soil to water based on prevailing and predicted weather conditions, soil moisture deficit and soil type. **See here.**

Information on local conditions can also be obtained via:

Dow AgroSciences Postcode checker <http://uk.dowagro.com/check-application-conditions-local-postcode/>






AHDB soil monitoring tool: <https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/soilmonitor>





Watercourses, drift and over-spraying

Sprays can be applied inadvertently to ditches or watercourses, for instance when booms are not turned off at headlands. There are many ways by which herbicides may inadvertently enter watercourses including:

-  Backing into field corners/headlands
-  Drift from fine spray nozzles
-  Lack of crop canopy
-  Spraying in windy conditions
-  Where no buffer strip is in place beside water courses

Use this check list to review your actions

Objective	Detailed actions or issues	YOUR ASSESSMENT				
		I'm doing this	Maybe I could do this	Not doing this	I will investigate	Not applicable
Reduce farmyard losses	Check 5-day weather forecasts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Avoid spraying dry or cracked soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Avoid spraying if heavy rain is forecast in next 48 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Avoid spraying if drains are flowing or close to flowing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Use AHDB or manufacturer weather/soil advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ensure there is no risk of drift reaching water courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ensure there is no risk of direct over-spray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OSRH-IS 8 Spring 2017



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The
Voluntary
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Promoting responsible pesticide use