



**OSR Herbicides?
Think Water**

What's the Problem?

Oilseed rape has a valuable role in many farm rotations as a break and 'cleaning' crop, especially where black-grass is a problem.

The threat to water







Five key herbicides are not only invaluable to oilseed rape production, but they deliver benefits across arable rotations.

But their detection in drinking water sources could result in restrictions on use and – without the application of best practice – lead to their possible withdrawal.

Think Water

Even used with care, minute amounts of pesticide have the potential to reach water courses. This in turn poses challenges to water companies striving to comply with the UK water quality legislation and Drinking Water Standards.

How pesticides reach water courses

-  **Filling areas** – splashes and spills during filling and cleaning down, container disposal, etc.
-  **Application** – accidental overspray and/or drift.
-  **Poor timing** – applying when soil or weather conditions are inappropriate may cause run-off or rapid drainage.
-  **Drainage** – running field drains will help pesticide in solution, or attached to soil particles, to flow out of the soil and into water courses.
-  **Run-off and erosion** – pesticides in solution, or attached to soil particles are readily carried to water courses through run-off which in extreme conditions can involve erosion.
-  **Poor soil structure** – especially soils with compaction at the surface or a plough pan can enable rapid flow of pesticide to water courses.

**THE KEY
HERBICIDES**
carbetamide
clopyralid
metazachlor
propyzamide
quinmerac

Paying attention to all these factors will help protect water and preserve the use of Oilseed Rape Herbicides.

Detailed further advice on key topics is available in other sheets in this series.



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www.osrherbicides.org.uk



**The
Voluntary
Initiative**

Promoting responsible pesticide use

