

Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC) Summer Update 2025

Chair: Richard Baines
9 September 2025



UK/EU Alignment activities



UK/EU Trade Agreement



- UK-EU Summit on 19 May 2025:
 - UK and EU [Common Understanding](#) on working towards ‘SPS Agreement’
 - Details of agreement yet to be discussed and agreed over the coming months via detailed technical discussions with the EU
 - Will cover sanitary, phytosanitary, food safety, consumer protection, marketing standards and composition
 - Application of rules based on ‘dynamic alignment’ subject to optional provisions or derogations – pending further decisions
- Timings are still subject to agreement – no timeframe
- Priority for Government in other areas (e.g. energy, security) but food may not be prioritised
- Defra working with FSA (Wales and NI) and FSS to assess necessary changes
- Businesses must continue to comply with all applicable GB, NI and EU requirements until further notice.
- [EC recommendation](#) to launch negotiations – published 16 July 2025
- Mandate needs to be agreed with EU MS.
- SPS negotiations likely to start in September (aim to conclude by 2027).

Defra-led 'Pesticides EU Relations Project WG'

- The WG is to provide technical advice and expertise to government regarding the new UK-EU SPS agreement under negotiation, to ensure effective implementation.
- The potato sector is represented by Alex Godfrey, Chair of GB Potatoes, and by Olayemi Fashesin-Souza at FDF.
- A first meeting took place on 25 July. PPA provided initial positioning for FDF.
- Two key issues were identified during the initial meeting:
 - Timing: What a reasonable transition timeline towards an alignment scenario might look like.
 - Divergence: Differences in approvals and authorisations of active substances and pesticides.
- PPA has provided GB and FDF with an updated list of actives which are relevant to the GB potato sector, and which were either recently withdrawn, amended or under threat (either at an EU level or at a GB level).
- PPA also provided information on timescales for transition to an alignment scenario for frozen, PC and potato dehydrate products i.e., *how long would it take for the supply chain to adjust, thinking both about active substance/product approvals and MRLs, and highlighting any dependencies?*
- Defra has requested further detail on costs associated with MRLs changes.

Further alignment work on contaminants

- PPA is anticipating additional requests for information from Defra and or FSA/FSS on the impact of UK alignment with the EU on contaminants legislation.
- PPA secretariat has produced a summary document, similar in format to the PPA updated list of actives which are relevant to the GB potato sector (see slide 4), detailing the changes to UK and EU contaminants legislation since Brexit (1 January 2020).
 - From 1 January 2020 until 6 March 2023 there were a total of 12 amendments to the EU main contaminants regulation (Regulation 1881/2006).
 - Regulation 1881/2006 was itself superseded on 5 May 2023 by Regulation 2023/915 and has been subject to a further eight amendments since publication.
 - One amendment was made to the regulation on methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of mycotoxins.
 - Regulation 2015/7051 on the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of plant toxins was repealed and replaced.
 - Regulation 401/2006 methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food was also repealed and replaced.
 - Four amendments were made to Regulation 333/2007 on sampling and analysis of food contaminants.
 - Not all the amendments are of direct relevance to potatoes, ingredients in processed products may be impacted.
- Further areas of potential divergence/concern are additives, biocides and novel foods.

Fair trade

GB: Proposals for Fair Dealings Regulations in the Fresh Produce Sector

- UK Government is looking to introduce new regulations for the fresh produce sector that will improve transparency within contractual agreements and tackle unfairness where it exists.
- Version 2 of the proposals for the Fair Dealings Regulations in the Fresh Produce sector were circulated over the summer: with feedback requested by **26 September 2025**.
- Appears that Defra has decided that these regulations will not apply to ‘Spot Market’ trading.
 - Question whether potatoes come under the remit of ‘Fruit and Vegetables’:
 - **Does the sector want potatoes to be included?**
 - Previous feedback to Defra has been that the potato sector is working reasonably well and does not require further regulation.

EU: Targeted revision of the European common market organisation (CMO) Regulation

- Amending certain CAP Regulations as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain.
- **Concern from some in EU potato sector that current proposals would introduce mandatory written contracts and a unilateral contract revision clause.**
- EUPPA/Europatat is lobbying for a sector-specific exemption for potatoes from the Article 168 provisions (notably the unilateral revision clause), in line with exemptions already proposed for other crops (cereals, oilseeds, protein crops).

UK/EU Seeds trade update

Seed

- In August Defra received a letter from the European Commission announcing a suspension of the 'Protected Region Audit', citing the ongoing SPS negotiations which will supersede any TCA arrangements made as a result of last October's audit.
 - Europatat is working with European stakeholders to put pressure on the Commission to deal with seed potato trade separate from the SPS agreement.
- On 5 September APHA gave an update to stakeholder on results of this year's seed crop and on actions to be taken forward.
 - A further update will be given as part of the BP2025 event in Harrogate (20 November 2025). Details to be confirmed.
- BPTA is reporting that Potato Leafroll Virus (PLRV) is becoming more of a problem and is quite widespread.
 - Increased findings of PLRV in Scotland but fewer crops with >4% virus requiring a statutory notice of haulm destruction.
 - Through the virus forum, GB Potatoes has put out a project for tender on tackling PLRV.
- There is concern around a possible drop of Egyptian demand for seed potatoes, with reports of potato surpluses and a lack of movement in Egypt.

Land use - Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT)

Opened: September 2025.

CSHT pays farmers and land managers to manage land in a way that:

- protects, restores or enhances the environment
- mitigates the effects of climate change
- CSHT can be done on woodland, farmed land, land managed for nature or a combination of these. This includes important environmental or historic sites, such as:
 - sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)
 - commons
 - woodlands
 - scheduled monuments
 - CSHT will roll out in a controlled way by invitation, so everyone gets the right level of support.
- Natural England or the Forestry Commission (or both) have been providing the relevant pre-application advice from January 2025 to enable the farmers and land managers to prepare an application.
- You cannot apply for CSHT until you receive an invitation to get pre-application advice from Natural England or the Forestry Commission.

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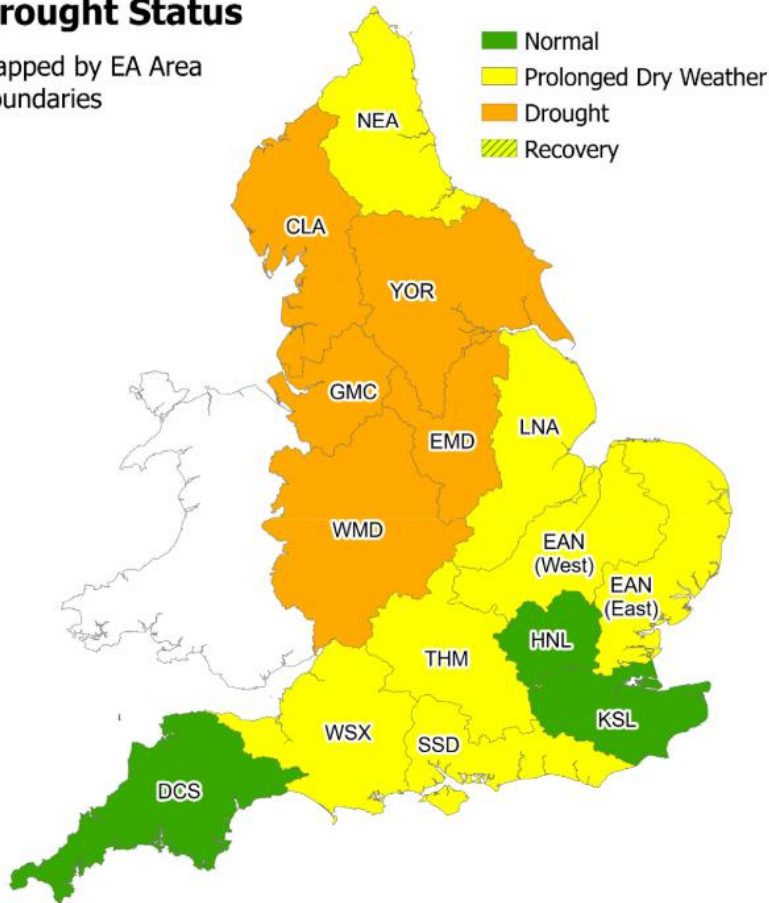
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Water

Water situation reports for England

Drought Status

Mapped by EA Area boundaries



- England has seen 7 consecutive months of below average rainfall.
- Driest August across England since 2003, receiving just 42% of the LTA rainfall.
- Fifteen water companies have activated their drought plans, with 4 companies continuing to implement temporary use bans (TUBs). Two water companies have submitted 43 drought permits in total (5 granted and the rest in determination) - these are mainly for Yorkshire Water.
- As of 4 September, there are 1,152 hands off flow restrictions in force on abstraction licences.
- EA has received 28 requests for flexible abstractions (11 approved to date).
- EA has applied for 5 drought orders (2 granted and 3 in determination).

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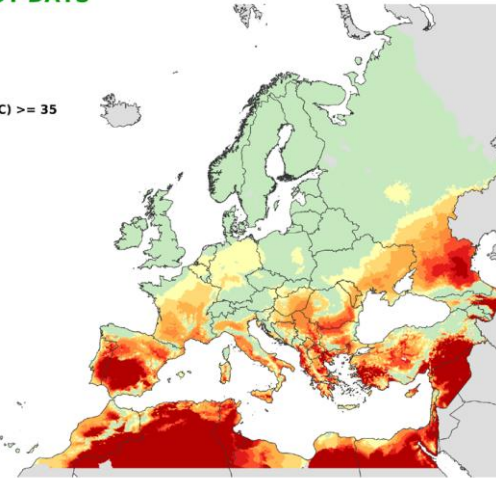
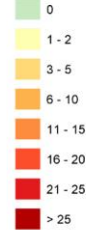
NUMBER OF HOT DAYS

from: **01 July 2025**
to: **16 August 2025**

Period of interest

Maximum temperature (°C) ≥ 35

Units: days



18/08/2025
Resolution: 10 x 10 km



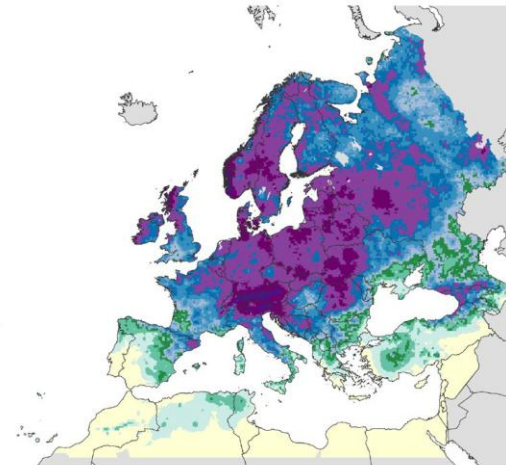
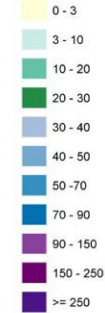
© European Union, 2025
Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRI4CAST project)

RAINFALL

Cumulative values

from: **01 July 2025**
to: **16 August 2025**

Units: mm



18/08/2025
Resolution: 10 x 10 km



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Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRI4CAST project)

RAINFALL

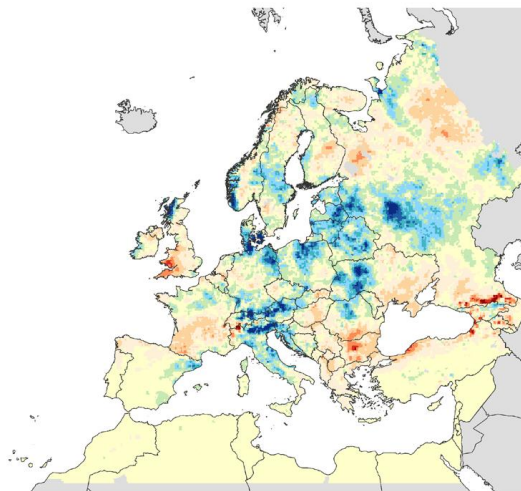
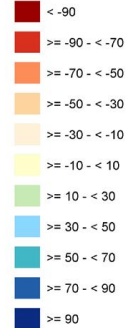
Cumulative values

from: **01 July 2025**
to: **16 August 2025**

Deviation:

Year of interest - LTA

Units: mm



18/08/2025
Resolution: 10 x 10 km



© European Union, 2025
Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRI4CAST project)

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL

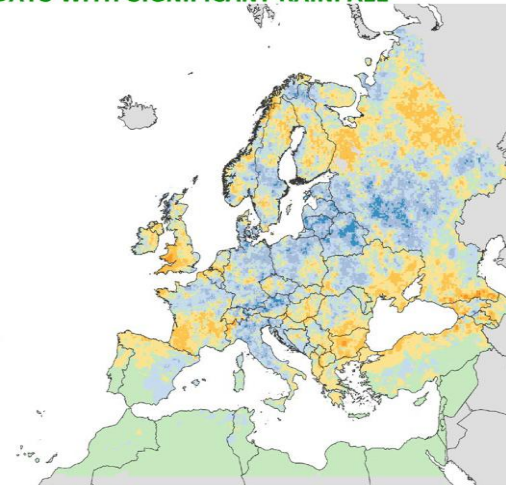
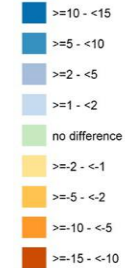
from: **01 July 2025**
to: **16 August 2025**

Deviation:

Year of interest - LTA

Rain (mm) > 5

Units: days



18/08/2025
Resolution: 10 x 10 km

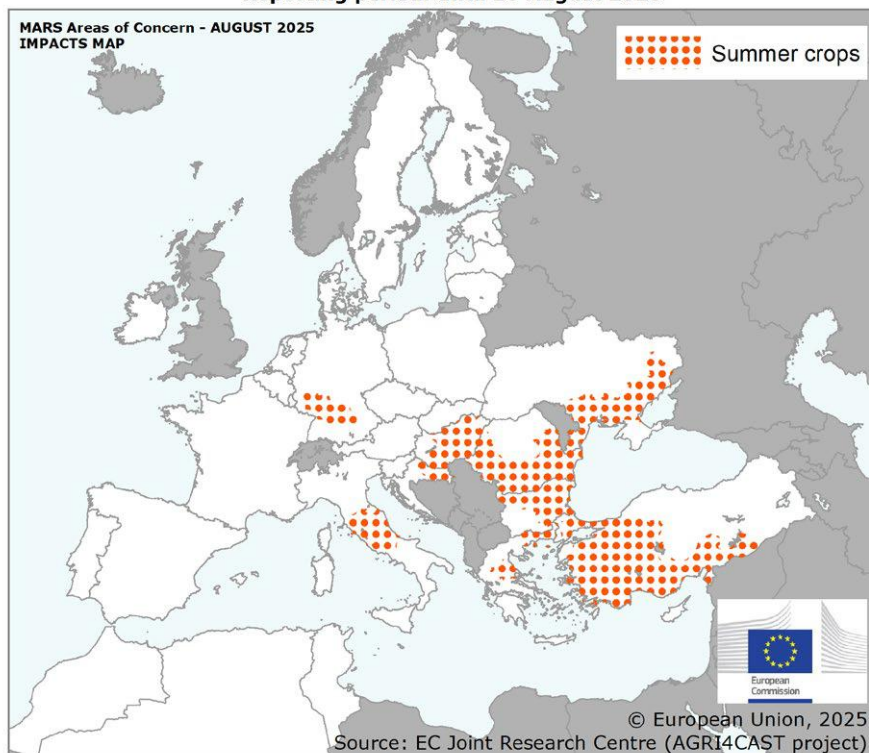


© European Union, 2025
Source: EC Joint Research Centre (AGRI4CAST project)

Estimated Yields (EU)

AREAS OF CONCERN - IMPACTS

Reporting period: until 16 August 2025



Crop	Yield t/ha				
	Avg 5yrs	July Bulletin	MARS 2025 forecasts	%25/5yrs	% Diff July
Total cereals	5.40	5.64	5.66	+ 5	+ 0
Total wheat	5.55	5.88	5.92	+ 7	+ 1
<i>Soft wheat</i>	5.77	6.09	6.15	+ 7	+ 1
<i>Durum wheat</i>	3.41	3.78	3.76	+ 10	- 1
Total barley	4.76	5.31	5.35	+ 12	+ 1
<i>Spring barley</i>	4.66	5.00	5.01	+ 8	+ 0
<i>Winter barley</i>	4.81	5.45	5.51	+ 15	+ 1
Grain maize	7.10	7.18	6.93	- 2	- 3
Rye	4.20	4.20	4.29	+ 2	+ 2
Triticale	4.37	4.48	4.49	+ 3	+ 0
Rape and turnip rape	3.16	3.20	3.24	+ 3	+ 1
Potatoes	36.4	36.5	36.8	+ 1	+ 1
Sugar beet	73.6	74.8	74.6	+ 1	- 0
Sunflower	2.02	1.94	1.83	- 9	- 6
Soybeans	2.67	2.65	2.74	+ 3	+ 3
Field beans	2.68	2.81	2.82	+ 5	+ 0
Field peas	2.20	2.41	2.30	+ 5	- 5
Green maize	42.5	42.1	42.6	+ 0	+ 1

Issued: 25 August 2025

Plant protection products

CIPC Residues Management Group

Chlorpropham (CIPC, sprout suppressant previously authorised for use on potatoes).

- Last CRMG meeting was held on 19 August 2025.
 - As of 9 July 2025, PPA has formally resigned the secretariat function.
 - PPA continues to support the CRMG through attendance and advice.
- Next meeting is planned for November 2025.
- The final (updated) CRMG report for 2023/2024 was submitted to HSE in May. 102 validated samples (target was 125).
- For the 2024/25 season a total of 156 samples were received so far and the final report was submitted on 1 September 2025.

At an EU Level:

- *Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1163 of 13 June 2025 amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for chlorpropham, fuberidazole, ipconazole, methoxyfenozide, S-metolachlor and triflusulfuron in or on certain products.*
 - EU Temporary MRL has moved to 0.2 mg/kg from 0.35 mg/kg.
 - PVC will report data to the Commission every two years instead of annually.
- NB:** In an SPS alignment scenario UK is likely to move to a 0.2 mg/kg tMRL.

Mancozeb

Mancozeb (broad spectrum fungicide used to control late blight in potatoes).

- In 2024 HSE announced the withdrawal of the GB authorisation for mancozeb, under the auspices of Article 21 of the retained Regulation (EC) 1107/2009.
- PPA wrote to GB ministers at that time expressing concern over the potential impact of this withdrawal.
- PPA recently attended UPL's two-day workshop on 3-4 June 2025, at Rothamsted Research, Harpenden. This event focused on discussing the agricultural benefits and importance of the mancozeb, and the outcome was a 'White paper', which PPA supported via GB Potatoes.
- The EC had previously withdrawn authorisation for mancozeb (in 2020), under the same Article 21. However, in 2024 the ECJ ruled that the EC had not followed the correct legal procedure.
- On 1 July 2025, a further ECJ hearing took place. The results are not expected until Oct/Dec. Should the EC lose the case, the legislation prohibiting mancozeb's renewal may be annulled. This could potentially result in reauthorisation in the EU and require risk assessments to be restarted.
- In light of these developments and the EU/UK SPS work, UPL has asked industry to write to GB ministers asking for them to postpone the GB withdrawal.
- UPL drafted a letter: PPA inputted into its development but did not co-sign, again supporting via GB Potatoes.
- The final letter was submitted to Defra Minister Emma Hardy (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Water and Flooding) on 1 September 2025. CC'd to Daniel Zeichner MP (now ex-Defra Minister of State).

EU PPP public consultations

The European Commission launched three public consultations on draft regulations on updating the rules for active substances and Plant Protection Products (PPPs) under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

- Data requirements for applications for the approval of active substances, amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 283/2013
 - Proposes updates in the dossier requirements for chemical substances and microorganisms
 - Focuses more strongly on health and environmental risks, residues in processed commodities, resistance management, endocrine disruption, alternative to vertebrate testing
- Data requirements for applications for authorisation of PPPs, amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 284/2013
 - Proposes updates in the product-level dossier requirements for the authorisation of PPPs
 - Aligns structure for chemical/biological products and integrates new EFSA guidance on bees
- Uniform principles for evaluation and authorisation of PPPs, amending Commission Regulation (EU) 546/2011
 - Proposes updates of the principles applied by the authorities when they assess and authorise PPPs, with the goal of harmonising practices across the EU MS
- Deadline for responses: 2 October 2025.

Other PPP issues of potential relevance (1)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/787 of 24 April 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, amidosulfuron, bentazone, bixafen, clomazone, fenoxaprop-P, fludioxonil, fluoxastrobin, flutolanil, fluxapyroxad, gibberellic acid, gibberellins, halauxifen-methyl, mecoprop-P, paraffin oil, penthiopyrad, pirimiphos-methyl, propamocarb, propyzamide, prothioconazole, rimsulfuron, sedaxane and sulfoxaflor

LINK: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500787

- 1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 November 2027
- Bentazone, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 31 October 2027
- Clomazone, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 September 2026
- Fludioxonil, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 September 2026
- Flutolanil, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 15 June 2026
- Propamocarb, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 31 January 2027
- Rimsulfuron, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 15 August 2028

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1489 of 24 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances ametoctradin, Beauveria bassiana strains ATCC 74040 and GHA, buprofezin, clodinafop, copper compounds, cyflumetofen, daminozide, flupyradifurone, Helicoverpa armigera nucleopolyhedrovirus, mandestrobin, mandipropamid, metam, pyraclostrobin, rescalure, Spodoptera littoralis nucleopolyhedrovirus, Streptomyces lydicus strain WYEC 108, Trichoderma asperellum strain T34 and Trichoderma atroviride strain I-1237

LINK: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202501489

Of specific interest to the potato sector:

- Ametoctradin, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 31 May 2028.
- Mandipropamid, the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 June 2029.
- Pyraclostrobin the expiry date for the approval is extended to 15 September 2026.

Other PPP issues of potential relevance (2)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/910 of 20 May 2025 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance flufenacet, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and amending Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) No 540/2011 and (EU) 2015/408

LINK: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500910

- *EU Member States to withdraw authorisations for plant protection products containing flufenacet as an active substance by 10 December 2025.*
- *Any grace period granted by Member States shall expire by 10 December 2026.*

EFSA review of Maleic Hydrazide

LINK: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9522>

The purpose of this application was to lift the current labelling recommendations / restrictions regarding feeding treated crops to livestock.

Conclusions were reached based on the evaluation of the representative uses of MH as a plant growth regulator on onion, shallot, garlic, potato and carrot.

- A modification of existing maximum residue level (MRLs) for animal commodities is recommended.
- **No concerns were identified in the scope of this review.**

Other PPP issues of potential relevance (3)

GB

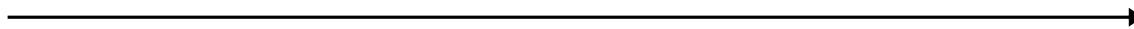
Juno has issued a Technical Notice for Biox-M (Spearmint oil) on 3 September 2025.

- The Technical Notice addresses the issue of early dormancy breaks.
- Juno has received some reports of in-field dormancy break, which suggests to them that crops going into store may break dormancy earlier than expected.

HSE has issued a notification on ethylene and citronella oil approvals in GB

- The approvals were not supported for renewal in GB and expired on 31 August 2025.
- Grace periods have been set:
 - 6 months for sale and distribution (28 February 2026)
 - a further 12 months for storage, disposal and use of existing stocks (28 February 2027)
- Current GB MRLs which will remain in force unless HSE decides to take specific regulatory action; no such action is currently planned.
- The withdrawal only affects ethylene from cylinder (Biofresh). This does not impact the authorisation from Restrain which is regulated by CRD for ethanol (with ethylene generated in store).

Level of risk, imminent, medium-term to longer-term



Decreasing impact on business	Risk Analysis	PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end September 2026) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (October 2026 – September 2029) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end September 2029) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
	Big Company Impact Cost Reputation Media	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution	Metribuzin* (H) [GB 31/07/28] Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [GB expiry 30/09/27] Cymoxanil (F) [GB 31/08/29]	Fosthiazate (N) [GB expiry 31/10/29] 1,4-DMN (GR) [GB 30/06/31] Mandipropamid* (F) [GB 31/07/31] Maleic Hydrazide (GR) [GB 31/10/32] Carfentrazone-ethyl (H) [GB 31/07/33] Spearmint oil (GR) [GB 31/08/31]
	Moderate Impact Cost Material availability Working practice		Flutolanil (ST) [GB 28/02/29] Glyphosate (H) [GB 15/12/26]	Azoxystrobin (F) [GB 31/12/29] Imazalil (ST) [GB 31/12/29] Ferric phosphate (M) [GB 31/12/30] Flonicamid (I) [GB 31/08/31] Thiabendazole* (ST) [GB 31/03/32]
	Small Impact Cost Materials Change	Esfenvalerate (I) [GB 31/12/25]	Benthiavalicarb (F) [GB 31/07/27] Dimethomorph (F) [GB 31/07/27] Fluopicolide (F) [GB 30/09/27] Flufenacet (H) [GB 31/10/27] Difenoconazole* (F) [GB 31/12/28] Fluazinam* (F) [GB 29/02/29] Rimsulfuron (H) [GB 30/04/29]	Propamocarb (F) [GB 31/07/29] Prosulfocarb (H) [GB 31/10/29]

NB: All GB authorisations that were still in place as of 01/01/2021 were automatically extended for a 3-year period. A further extension was granted for some actives as of 12/04/2023

Current issue Changed priority Identified as a potential high profile media issue *Potential Endocrine disruptor
H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

Level of risk, imminent, medium-term to longer-term

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Decreasing impact on business	Risk Analysis	PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end September 2026) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (October 2026 – September 2029) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end September 2029) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
	Big Company Impact Cost Reputation Media	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution Metribuzin* (H) [EU authorisation expiry 31/10/24. Sale and supply 24/05/25. Grace period 24/12/25] Metaldehyde (M) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Cymoxanil (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26]	Fosthiazate (N) [EU expiry 31/01/27] 1,4-DMN (GR) [EU expiry 30/11/27] Mandipropamid* (F) [EU expiry 30/06/29]	Maleic Hydrazide (GR) [EU expiry 31/10/32] Carfentrazone-ethyl (H) [EU expiry 31/07/33]
	Moderate Impact Cost Material availability Working practice	Plant oils/clove oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26] Plant oils/spear mint oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26] Flutolanil (ST) [EU expiry 15/06/26]	Ethylene (GR) [EU expiry 30/11/26] Flonicamid (I) [EU expiry 30/11/26] Imazalil (ST) [EU expiry 31/05/27] Azoxystrobin (F) [EU expiry 31/05/27]	Ferric phosphate (M) [EU expiry 31/12/30] Thiabendazole* (ST) [EU expiry 31/03/32] Glyphosate (H) [EU Expiry 15/12/33]
	Small Impact Cost Materials Change	Flufenacet (H) [EU authorisation expiry 10/06/25. Grace period 10/12/26] Difenoconazole* (F) [EU expiry 15/03/26] Fluazinam* (F) [EU expiry 15/04/26] Esfenvalerate (I) [EU expiry 31/05/26] Fluopicolide (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26]	Prosulfocarb (H) [EU expiry 31/01/27] Propamocarb (F) [EU expiry 31/01/27] Rimsulfuron (H) [EU expiry 15/08/28]	

Current issue

Changed priority

Identified as a potential high profile media issue

*Potential Endocrine disruptor

H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides