



OSR Herbicides?
Think Water

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What's the issue?

Five key herbicides used to grow oilseed rape and control blackgrass and other weeds in arable rotations are being detected with increasing frequency in surface water. As a consequence, the UK Government is considering introducing restrictions on the use of these herbicides.

Which OSR herbicides are affected?

The OSR herbicides being detected are metazachlor, propyzamide, carbetamide, quinmerac and clopyralid. Propyzamide is the most frequently detected, while quinmerac and clopyralid are more difficult for water companies to remove.

How does this affect me?

These OSR herbicides are critical to weed control and growing a successful crop of oilseed rape, some of them are also important in controlling blackgrass across the rotation. Restrictions on the use of these herbicides threatens the economic viability of oilseed rape which is a valuable break crop and a means of fulfilling the three crop rule.

So what is being done?

The Voluntary Initiative 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 these herbicides.

See overleaf for steps you can take to help



What can I do to help?



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



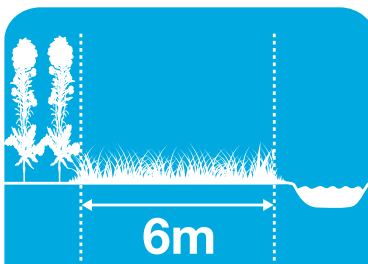
If you are farming in a DWSgZ, speak to your local water company catchment officer to understand the potential risk on a field-by-field basis, or speak to your agronomist



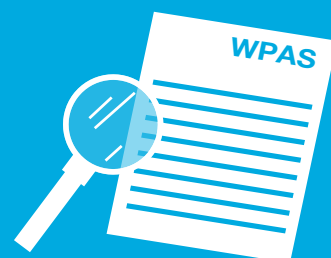
Implement best practice agronomy to help protect water



Manage tramlines, pathways and gateways to minimise compaction and reduce the risk of surface water run-off



Ensure all surface water adjacent to OSR fields is protected by at least a 6m vegetative buffer strip



Before making applications, always refer to product specific labels and the VI Water Protection Advice Sheets (WPAS)

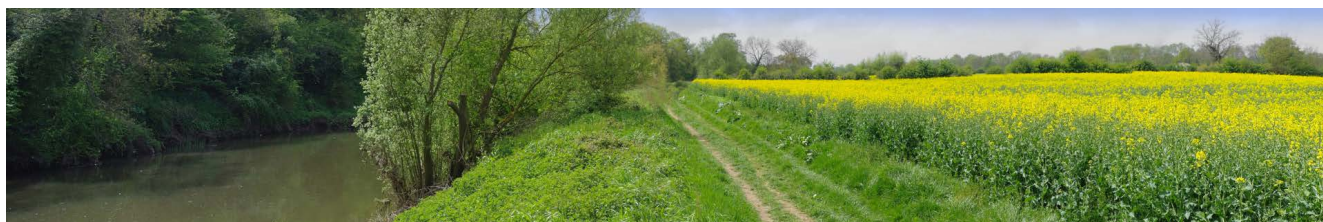
Where do I get more information?

For the VI Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan go to:
www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/en/vi-schemes/ipm-plans

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

- Soil management
- Buffer strips
- Filling and handling
- Water Protection Advice Sheets (WPAS) go to:
www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

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



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www.osrherbicides.org.uk



The Voluntary Initiative