

MARCH 2026

Cranberry MRL Issues

2026 Cranberry MRL Overview

136 Notifications reviewed | **5** Notifications impacting cranberries | **12** MRL changes

Since January 2026, BCI has reviewed over **130** notifications and has informed the cranberry industry of **12** MRL changes across **five** markets, including **five** MRL changes in Australia, **one** in Japan, **four** in Switzerland, **one** in Taiwan, and **one** in the European Union.

European Union

Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus

The *Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus* is a European Commission initiative to simplify and strengthen EU food safety legislation under the **EU Vision for Agriculture and Food**. The package proposes amendments to several EU laws, including [Regulation \(EC\) 1107/2009](#) on plant protection products approval and [Regulation \(EC\) 396/2005](#) on pesticide MRLs. These are the two major pesticide approval and MRL regulations in the EU.

In December 2025, the Commission published the proposed **Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package**. Key elements of interest to the cranberry industry are summarized below.

Proposed changes to **Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009** (Hazard-based, approves active ingredients to be used in the EU):

- **Biopesticides:** Faster approvals through clearer definitions, prioritized procedures, and the possibility of provisional authorizations while products are under review.
- **Approval duration:** Most active substances would receive **open-ended approvals**, except for substances of concern (such as candidates for substitution or substances in certain risk categories). Targeted renewals and ad-hoc reviews would remain possible.
- **Grace periods:** The maximum grace period following non-renewal of a substance would be extended to **up to three years**, providing more time before associated MRLs are lowered, which is particularly important for international trade.

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Proposed changes to **Regulation (EC) No 396/2005** (Risk-based, establishes and reviews MRLs):

- **Import tolerances:** For substances meeting EU **cut-off criteria** (i.e., particularly hazardous substances), MRLs would be set at the **limit of quantification (LOQ)**. In these cases, import tolerances based on third-country uses or Codex standards would no longer be allowed. The proposal expands cut-off criteria to include **environmental hazards**, allowing automatic MRL restrictions even in the absence of a direct human health risk. While this is already happening to some degree, this change would codify in regulation the so-called “mirror clause”, where exporters to the EU would have to comply with similar restrictions to EU growers that are not health-based.
- **Channels of trade:** Products could be **placed on or remain on the market after an MRL change** if they complied with the MRL in force at the time they were placed on the market, providing greater legal certainty for existing stocks and shipments. It is important to point out, however, that the current language would continue to consider the importation date for when a product was placed on the market. This would advantage European producers and still be a hindrance for importers.

French Decree Restricting Imports of Products with Certain Pesticide Residues

In early January 2026, France issued a decree prohibiting the import of certain grains, soybeans, fruits, and vegetables that have residues of five pesticides. Cranberry products were not included in the list. While this unilateral action by the French government is not part of the larger EU Vision for Agriculture and Food, it highlights the pressure that some EU member states are putting on the EU Commission to take action against imports that they understand to be unfair to their domestic growers. In an emergency meeting of the SCoPAFF, the EU decided not to adopt the French restriction at the EU level.

However, the EU remains committed to tightening its food, agriculture, and pesticide policies.

EU MRL Policy Impact Assessment

Following the "EU Vision for Agriculture and Food," the European Commission is set to conduct an impact assessment of MRL Regulation (EC) 396/2005. This effort, led by DG AGRI, will evaluate the current regulations' impact on EU competitiveness, potentially leading to changes regarding import tolerances and the maintenance of MRLs for substances no longer approved in the EU.

As part of the impact assessment, a study will be conducted by the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, with a preliminary report expected by summer 2026. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether or when the JRC will open a stakeholder consultation.

EU Maintains MRL Proposals to Lower MRL on Diazinon and Maintain MRL on Quadris Top

In February 2026, the EU Commission upheld its proposal for the **diazinon** (Diazinon) MRL on cranberries to be lowered to the limit of quantification (LOQ) at 0.01 ppm. Diazinon is not approved for use in the European Union due to its neurotoxicity, unacceptable risks to human health, and high toxicity to birds, bees, and aquatic organisms. The current U.S. MRL is 0.5 ppm.

Additionally, in February 2026, the **difenoconazole** (Quadris Top) MRL proposal was upheld at 0.6 ppm by the EU Commission, which is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs. This remains positive news for the industry.

Both proposals are still under consideration by the EC's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food, and Feed (SCoPAFF).

Quinclorac Update

In the SCoPAFF meeting in November 2025, the European Commission announced that it would request EFSA to carry out the MRL review of selected active ingredients, including **quinclorac** (Quinstar). EFSA's review can take up to 11 months, which would be followed by a regulatory proposal, WTO notification, and implementing regulation.

Specific EU MRL Changes:

There are currently **101** cranberry MRLs in the EU with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2026, the European Union has proposed **three** MRLs on cranberries:

Proposed:

- **Acequinocyl** (Kanemite): proposed EU MRL (2 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.5 ppm).
- **Diazinon** (Diazinon): proposed EU MRL (0.01 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.5 ppm).
- **Difenoconazole** (Quadris Top): proposed EU MRL (0.6 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.

Taiwan MRL Update

There are currently **51** cranberry MRLs established in Taiwan with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2026, Taiwan has proposed **one** MRL on cranberries:

Proposed:

- **Cyantraniliprole** (Exirel): proposed Taiwan MRL (0.08 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.

Japan MRL Update

The Japanese government is conducting a 15-year systematic review of all approved pesticides, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and managed by the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA). While this re-evaluation targets domestic pesticide use, it has the potential to influence established MRLs across the industry. If data to support the MRLs are available, the MRLs can be kept. However, if no data is available, the MRL is likely to be deleted.

Each year, Japan will reevaluate about 40 pesticides. When those reviews come up, data packages will need to be sent to maintain the MRL. BCI has obtained the list of pesticides scheduled for review in the next two years and is reviewing to determine whether any registrants need to be approached to maintain the MRL into the future in Japan.

There are currently **72** cranberry MRLs that are established with corresponding U.S. MRLs in Japan. Since January 2026, Japan has established **one** and proposed **one** MRLs on cranberries:

Pending:

- **Spirotetramat** (Movento): pending Japanese MRL (0.2 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.3 ppm) but is harmonized with the Codex MRL. The new MRL will come into effect on **April 23, 2026**. Until that date, the current MRL of 3 ppm applies.

Proposed:

- **Chlorpyrifos** (Lorsban): proposed revocation of the temporary Japanese MRL (1 ppm) to the default level of 0.01 ppm, which is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (1 ppm).

Australia MRL Update

In January 2026, Australia officially published the proposed MRLs from the 2024 FSANZ MRL Harmonization request. The cranberry industry successfully received **four** MRLs from these submission requests, including **carfentrazone-ethyl** (Aim) at 0.1 ppm, **cyprodinil** (Switch) at 6 ppm, **folpet** (Folpan) at 25 ppm, and **pendimethalin** (Satellite Hydrocap) at 0.1 ppm. These MRLs are likely to be implemented by the end of 2026. **This is great news for the industry.**

Unfortunately, the **buprofezin** (Courier) MRL request was denied as the dietary exposure assessment (DEA) using Australian food consumption data exceeded 100% of the health-based guidance value.

Specific Australia MRL Changes:

There are currently **87** cranberry MRLs established in Australia with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2026, Australia has proposed **five** MRLs on cranberries:

Proposed:

- **Carfentrazone-ethyl** (Aim): proposed Australian MRL (0.1 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. MRL.

- **Cyprodinil** (Switch): proposed Australian MRL (6 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.4 ppm).
- **Folpet** (Folpan): proposed Australian MRL (25 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (15 ppm).
- **Napropamide** (Devrinol): proposed revocation of Australian MRL (0.1 ppm) to 0.02 ppm, which is more restrictive than the U.S. and Codex MRLs (0.1 ppm).
- **Pendimethalin** (Satellite Hydrocap): proposed Australian MRL (0.1 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. MRL.

Switzerland MRL Update

Switzerland maintains its own national MRLs under the *Ordinance on Maximum Levels for Pesticide Residues in or on Products of Plant and Animal Origin (OPOVA)*, separate from the European Union, and applies a default MRL of 0.01 ppm. Switzerland also incorporates EU MRLs as its own to harmonize its standards with the EU and to minimize any potential trade issues. There are currently **102** established cranberry MRLs with corresponding U.S. MRLs in Switzerland. Since January 2026, Switzerland has established **four** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Fenpyroximate** (Fujimite): established Swiss MRL (1.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (1 ppm).
- **Fosetyl-Al** (Aliette): established Swiss MRL (1.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.5 ppm).
- **Mefentrifluconazole** (Cevya): established Swiss MRL (2 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.
- **Quinclorac** (Quinstar): established Swiss MRL (1.5 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.

Codex MRL Update

The 2025 meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) has recommended the MRL for **bifenthrin** (Fanfare) on cranberries. This MRL will be considered in the next Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) meeting that will take place in China in September 2026.

USDA's ASCE Initiative

Efforts to enhance market access for U.S. specialty crops are ongoing through the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) **Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative**. BCI's Matt Lantz will lead the ASCE delegation to Vietnam and Thailand in June to discuss **MRL policy issues**, including enforcement policies.

The ASCE APEC MRL project will also submit the **bifenthrin** (Fanfare) import tolerance request to Japan, saving the cranberry industry approximately \$40 thousand dollars. The import MRL will be submitted this Spring. Other cranberry priorities are also under consideration for future submissions.

As reported in December, the ASCE program was also successful in seeking new import tolerances in Southeast Asia for two cranberry compounds as a pilot project. These MRLs were adopted by Malaysia and may be adopted elsewhere. This was completed prior to the new deferral pathways included in the ART trade agreements.

Furthermore, the **cranberry MRL Quick Reference Sheet (QRS)** is published and will be updated biannually. You can access the MRL QRS [here](#).