

AUGUST 2026

ISSUES REVIEW

2026 MRL Cranberry Overview

504 Notifications reviewed | **24** Notifications impacting cranberries | **62** MRL changes

Since January 2026, BCI has reviewed over **504** notifications and has informed the cranberry industry of **62** MRL changes across eleven markets: **one** MRL

change in Canada, **three** MRL changes in the European Union, **four** MRL changes in Switzerland, **one** MRL change for Codex, **five** MRL changes in Mexico, **five** MRL changes in Japan, **13** MRL changes in Costa Rica, and **22** MRL changes in Indonesia.

European Union

EU-UK SPS Agreement Negotiations

The UK and EU are negotiating an SPS agreement that would realign UK pesticide regulation with the EU, including active ingredient approvals under *Regulation 1107/2009* and MRLs under *Regulation 396/2005*. If implemented, the UK would adopt all EU MRLs going forward, ending the independent MRL-setting path Great Britain has followed since leaving the EU in January 2020.

Finalization of the agreement was expected this summer at the EU-UK Summit, but the meeting was postponed following the resignation of former Prime Minister Keir Starmer. A new date has not been set, but the meeting is likely to take place in the fall. The UK's target for implementation of the agreement remains mid-2027. However, how the realignment process would be implemented remains unclear.

The SPS agreement is part of a broader post-Brexit initiative to rebuild ties with the EU. It's expected to move forward under the European Partnership Bill, announced in the May King's Speech, to streamline legislative approval of new UK-EU agreements.

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Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus

The Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus is an initiative from the European Commission aimed at streamlining and reinforcing EU food safety rules, part of the broader EU Vision for Agriculture and Food. The package proposes changes to the approval of plant protection products and pesticide MRLs.

The proposal has issues for trade, where products "placed on the market" be defined by the production date, so products already produced under a prior MRL would not be impacted by a subsequent change. A recently leaked draft of the presidency compromise, shows revised text that would address this challenge.

EU MRL Policy Impact Assessment

The European Commission launched an impact assessment on pesticide residues in imported food, as part of its broader EU Vision for Agriculture and Food initiative. The study was conducted by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and unofficial sources have indicated it has been completed.

The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate whether the standards applied to imported products should be aligned more closely with those applied to EU growers, with the stated objective of improving EU competitiveness. The study comes after the Commission has put forward policy proposal changes that would greatly restrict MRLs for substances not approved in the EU. The European Commission has yet to publish its results.

Poland Restricts Imports of Products Containing Four Pesticide Residues

The Polish Government announced that, effective June 6, 2026, the country will restrict imports of products containing residues of **glufosinate**, **thiophanate-methyl**, **carbendazim**, and **benomyl** for twelve months. This action is similar to the French Decree from January 2026 and also does not include cranberries.

This action is likely a result of Poland's response to domestic growers' concerns about the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, which is now in effect. EU MRL policy has increasingly been signaling the removal or reduction of MRLs for substances that are no longer approved for EU growers. Future expansion of this effort could pose risks for international trade and industry.

EU Notifies Proposal to Lower Diazinon MRL to the WTO

The EU has notified to the WTO its proposal to lower the MRL for **diazinon** (Diazinon). As mentioned in the March Issues Review, the **diazinon** (Diazinon) MRL on cranberries is proposed to be lowered to the limit of quantification (LOQ) of 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.

Specific EU MRL Updates:

There are currently **40** 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).
 - ***The EU notified the WTO of this proposal in July 2026.***
- **Difenoconazole** (Quadris Top): proposed EU MRL (0.6 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.

Japan MRL Update

Japan is conducting a 15-year review of all approved pesticides, which could affect existing maximum residue limits (MRLs) for imported and domestic products. MRLs will be maintained only if supporting data are submitted; otherwise, they are likely to be removed. Japan reviews about 40 pesticides each year, and BCI is identifying upcoming reviews and coordinating with registrants to preserve MRLs for the Japanese market.

Japan maintains its own national MRL list under its *Positive List System*, which is updated multiple times each year by the Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA). Japan applies a default MRL of 0.01 ppm when no national MRL has been established. Japan does not defer to other market standards. There are currently **70** cranberry MRLs that are established with corresponding U.S. MRLs in Japan. Since January 2026, Japan has established **one** and proposed **four** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Spirotetramat** (Movento): established Japanese MRL (0.2 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.3 ppm) but is harmonized with the Codex MRL.

Proposed:

- **Chlorothalonil** (Bravo): proposed Japanese MRL (15 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (5 ppm).
- **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).
- **Imidacloprid** (Admire): proposed Japanese MRL (0.01 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S., and Codex MRLs (0.05 ppm).
- **Oryzalin** (Surflan): proposed revocation of the temporary Japanese MRL (0.1 ppm) to the default level of 0.01 ppm, which is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.05 ppm).

Indonesia

In July 2026, Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture and Health established hundreds of new MRLs for a variety of commodities, including **22** new cranberry MRLs. These MRLs are now in effect and are mostly harmonized with the corresponding Codex MRLs. Indonesia maintains its own national MRL list, *Regulation of the National Food Agency of the Republic of Indonesia*, which is amended every few years by the Ministry of Agriculture (Kementerian Pertanian). Indonesia now applies a default MRL of 0.01 ppm in the absence of a national MRL.

With the new ART MRL deferral pathway agreement likely to be accepted, Indonesia's MRL deferral pathway will proceed as follows: first, Indonesia national MRL, second, Codex MRL if no national MRL, and third, U.S. MRL. Having the U.S. in this new MRL deferral pathway is a significant development for North American cranberry exports to the market.

There are currently **35** cranberry MRLs that are established in Indonesia with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since the beginning of the year, Indonesia has established **22** MRLs on cranberries. Below is a list of some high-priority active ingredients.

Established:

- **Chlorothalonil** (Bravo): established Indonesian MRL (15 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (5 ppm) and is harmonized with the Codex MRL.
- **Difenoconazole** (Quadris Top): established Indonesian MRL (0.6 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.
- **Flonicamid** (Beleaf): established Indonesian MRL (1.5 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (2 ppm) but is harmonized with Codex MRLs.
- **Quinclorac** (Quinstar): established Indonesian MRL (1.5 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S., and Codex MRLs.

Taiwan MRL Update

Taiwan maintains its own national MRL list under the Standards for Pesticide Residue Limits in Foods, which is amended multiple times a year by Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA). Taiwan does not apply a default MRL and does not defer to other market standards. There are currently 52 cranberry MRLs established in Taiwan with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2026, Taiwan has established one MRL on cranberries:

Established:

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

Mexico

Mexico maintains its own national MRL list under the Norma Oficial Mexicana, which is amended multiple times a year by the Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS). Mexico does not apply a default MRL and does not defer to other market standards. There are currently 54 cranberry MRLs established in Mexico with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2026, Mexico has established five MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Chlorantraniliprole** (Altacor): established Mexican MRL (2.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. and Codex MRLs.
- **Cyclaniliprole** (Harvanta): established Mexican MRL (1.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.4 ppm).
- **Pyridaben** (Nexter): established Mexican MRL (0.5 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. MRL.
- **Spinetoram** (Delegate): established Mexican MRL (0.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.04 ppm).
- **Spinosad** (Entrust): established Mexican MRL (0.4 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.04 ppm).

Codex MRL Update

During the 2025 Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), which took place on January 20-22, the following recommendation was proposed for cranberries:

- **Bifenthrin** (Fanfare): proposed MRL at 1.5 ppm, which is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (3 ppm).

This MRL will be considered in the next Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) meeting that will take place in China in September 2026. If approved, it will be in place by early 2027.

The following MRLs are scheduled to be reviewed by JMPR in 2026 and considered by CCPR in 2027:

- **Indoxacarb** (Avaunt): The U.S. MRL is 1 ppm. The current Codex MRL on cranberries is 1 ppm. As part of periodic review, all commodities covered by current Codex MRLs will be reviewed.
- **Fluopyram** (Luna Tranquility/Propulse): The U.S. (import tolerance) is 2 ppm. There is currently no Codex MRL established on cranberries.

USDA's ASCE Initiative

As part of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative, the **cranberry MRL Quick Reference Sheet (QRS)** is available online, with the latest update published in July 2026. The next update is scheduled for January 2027. You can access the MRL QRS [here](#).