



**ENTOMOLOGICAL
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EPA Announcements of Interest to ESA Members

Sources: Regulations.gov, epa.gov, and EPA Weekly Digest Bulletin

Registration and registration review of insecticides

Public comment for the draft of Biological Opinion for Carbaryl is open

The draft of the Biological Opinion for the insecticide carbaryl prepared by FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) is open for comments until February 6, 2025. The document indicated that 78 listed species and 14 critical habitats are at risk, considering the current registration use. The proposed restrictions include a reduction in the maximum annual number of applications and the amount used for several crops, ornamentals, and turfgrass. The document also indicates incorporating the mitigation measures from the EPA's insecticide strategy to be listed on the label directions and considering geographic-specific mitigation measures through Bulletins Live! Two.

The page to submit comments to the FWS draft biological opinion for Carbaryl can be accessed at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0579>

More information about EPA documents related to Carbaryl can be accessed at:

<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/biological-opinions-available-public-comment-links-final-opinions-and-links>

EPA final cancellation and termination of use for several chlorpyrifos products and the proposal to cancel all but 11 food uses of chlorpyrifos

On July 15, 2024, the companies Drexel and Loveland voluntarily requested that EPA cancel or terminate chlorpyrifos products. On December 10, 2024, the EPA issued a proposal to revoke the tolerance of all food and feed crops, except for 11 food uses in specific states, which is expected to decrease by 70% the annual average of chlorpyrifos applied in the U.S. The table below lists the food uses that will remain on federally registered chlorpyrifos products and will be limited to the states listed. However, since the 2020 Proposed Registration Review Interim Decision issuance, several states have prohibited the use of chlorpyrifos, including California, Hawaii, New York, Maryland, and Oregon.

Use Site	State
Alfalfa	AZ, CO, IA, ID, IL, KS, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WI, WY
Apple	AL, DC, DE, GA, ID, IN, KY, MD, MI, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, TN, VA, VT, WA, WV
Asparagus	MI
Cherry (tart)	MI
Citrus	AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TX
Cotton	AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, VA
Peach	AL, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, VA, VT, WV
Soybean	AL, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV, WY
Strawberry	OR
Sugar beet	IA, ID, IL, MI, MN, ND, OR, WA, WI
Wheat (Spring)	CO, KS, MO, MT, ND, NE, SD, WY
Wheat (Winter)	CO, IA, KS, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, OK, SD, TX, WY

More information about the regulations for the use of chlorpyrifos in the 2025 growing season can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/frequently-asked-questions-about-current-status-chlorpyrifos#grow>

More information about the voluntary request for cancellation can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0223>

More information about the proposed revocation of all food tolerances except those listed above can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0431-0001>. [Comments on the proposal are due on or before February 10, 2025.](#)

The Fish and Wildlife Services' final biological opinion (BiOp) has been completed for methomyl

EPA released the final Biological Opinion (BiOp) from FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) for methomyl on January 16, 2025. In July 2024, the document draft was open for a 60-day public comment period and listed 82 federally endangered and threatened (listed) species and 34 designated critical habitats under risk due to the use of registered products. Alternative measures were also proposed to mitigate this risk. Joint work between FWS, EPA, and USDA developed species-specific measures to protect listed species. These measures are geographically specific and will be implemented through pesticide product labeling. EPA's Bulletins Live! Two platform will be a source to determine whether mitigations, if any, are needed in areas where methomyl is to be applied. In addition, the development of training material for applications of methomyl, reporting system for incidents, monitoring of water quality, and use of this pesticide is expected to be implemented in work with registrants and EPA.

More information about the Fish and Wildlife Services' final biological opinion (BiOp) for methomyl can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0290>

EPA released proposed guidance for antimicrobial pesticide registrants

EPA released proposed guidance for the registration of new products, new uses, and registration review of antimicrobial pesticides for public comment, regarding the analysis necessary to support the evaluation and potential adverse effects on listed species and critical habitats. Information regarding the use of the product, how listed species can be exposed, and how mitigation measures that should be selected to reduce exposure are included in the recommendations.

More information about the proposed guidance can be found at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0281>

EPA issues first voucher under the “VERV” Program to incentivize the development of novel mosquito control products

In April 2024, the commercial product WB1 Males for mosquito control was registered by the EPA with the approved new active ingredient *Wolbachia* wAlbB strain. This commercial product was approved under the “VERV” (Vector Expedited Review Voucher) Program. The objective of this program is to incentivize companies to develop mosquito control products to help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and Zika.

More information about the VERV Program eligibility can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/vector-expedited-review-voucher-verv-program>

EPA Signs Joint Statement of Cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Help Protect Endangered Species and Support Sustainable Agriculture

EPA and FWS developed and signed a Joint Statement that formally states the plans to streamline consultations for conventional pesticide actions, assuring that the Endangered Species Act section 7(a)(2) will be met regarding the protection of listed species and their critical habitats. The statement describes how EPA will identify conservation measures through the development and implementation of multi-chemical approaches, including the Herbicide Strategy, which reduces the likelihood of population-level impacts on groups of listed species. EPA’s section 7(a)(1)/7(a)(2) Plan provides more detailed information and should be considered a companion document to the Joint Statement.

More information about Herbicide Strategy can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/strategy-protect-endangered-species-herbicides>

More information about the joint statement can be found here; <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/joint-statement-cooperation-between-epa-and-fws-help-protect-endangered-species>