

PESTICIDE POLICY

1. Introduction

Pesticides can be an essential tool in the economic production of food and Waitrose seeks to promote the responsible use of phytosanitary products and recognises the potential risks involved to human health, the environment and biodiversity from crop protection practices, as well as wider public concerns. Waitrose seeks to minimise the risks of using pesticides within its grower base

2. Scope

The following products are within scope of this policy:

- Waitrose & Partners branded fresh produce (fruit, vegetables, salad)
- Waitrose & Partner branded plants and flowers

3. Interpretation

This policy document has been produced by the Quality, Regulatory and Technical Team at Waitrose. The content is not intended to remove the need for suppliers to develop and maintain knowledge of the regulatory framework for food safety and good agricultural practices, but where a difference in interpretation exists; the requirements in this document must be applied.

4. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that pesticides are used on a rigorous risk assessed basis. It sets out lists of prohibited and 'watch out' pesticides, and the requirements for risk assessments for the use of all pesticides.

5. Policy Requirements

- 5.1. Pesticides are permitted to be used as part of managed IPM strategies in conjunction with alternative control measures to avoid excessive pesticide usage, including resistant varieties, appropriate cultural methods, promoting soil health and plant health, biological control methods and non pesticide interventions throughout the life cycle of the crop, have been thoroughly assessed.

- 5.2. Where pesticides are to be used, suppliers of fresh fruit, salads or vegetables, and plants and flowers must conduct a risk assessment on the appropriate use of pesticides. The risk assessment must include risks to:
- The operator
 - The environment
 - Biodiversity
 - Third parties, such as neighbouring properties, general public, public footpaths.
 - The consumer
 - Residues being present in the final product
- 5.3. Pesticides must only be used as part of a documented Integrated Pest Management program for each crop.
- 5.4. Waitrose recognises the value of third party accreditation schemes such as Red Tractor (UK), GLOBALGAP, LEAF Marque, OHSAS (Horticulture) or equivalent schemes in encouraging good agricultural practices in managing, handling and applying pesticides.
- 5.5. For crops grown in the UK, only pesticides that are authorised for use in the UK, with associated maximum residue limits (MRLs) are permitted to be used.
- 5.6. Certain pesticides that are not authorised for crop use in the UK, may be permitted to be used on crops grown in countries where they are authorised. Pesticides which are authorised in the country of origin are permitted provided that there is an MRL laid down in UK legislation and the other provisions of this policy are met.
- 5.7. We are committed to phasing out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP's) and we have engaged with academics and independent experts to assess all pesticides that could potentially be used on our crops. These have been categorised by risk into three groups:
- [Black Group: prohibited from use on crops grown for Waitrose](#)
 - [Red Group: must be risk assessed with a plan for ultimate removal from cropping systems](#)
 - [Amber Group: pesticides of concern that are being monitored by Waitrose. Growers must be aware of any risks prior to usage](#)
- 5.8. Proposed Pesticide Lists for fresh produce crops, by grower (or grower group if applicable) must be uploaded onto the Waitrose Supplier Approval Platform prior to the start of the cropping season. The Proposed Pesticide list must reference pesticides likely to be used on the crop based on actual historical usage and new developments in crop protection. It must not be a list of all approved products for that crop in the country of origin.

- 5.9. The neonicotinoid insecticides, Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiacloprid and Thiamethoxam have been identified as being potentially harmful to bees and must not be sprayed on flowering crops that are attractive to bees.
- 5.10. There is widespread concern regarding the usage of antibiotics in agriculture and the potential increase of resistance to human pathogens in widely used antibiotics. The antibiotic products Gentamicin, Oxytetracycline and Streptomycin have been identified as having potential usage in fresh produce and are also classified as critical or highly important antimicrobials. Therefore these products have been placed on the Red list. Kasugamycin, an antibiotic with potential agricultural use, is not listed as critical or highly important and has been placed on the Amber list.
- 5.11. The Waitrose Pesticide lists fully take into account the risk profiles of pesticides in terms of risks to human health, environmental fate, risks to biodiversity and pollinators, and likely risks of excessive residues remaining in products. The Waitrose policy also fully takes into account published data such as the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Highly Hazardous Pesticide List. Whilst we understand the practical difficulties in producing safe, abundant, high quality and affordable food Waitrose aims to continue to work with our growers to phase out the most highly hazardous pesticides over time.

6. Policy Implementation

- 6.1. Suppliers of fresh produce must follow the guidelines detailed in the Fresh Produce Consortium Code of Practice for the Control of Pesticides for Produce Marketing Organisations 10th Edition 2017 for handling and managing pesticides and pesticide information in the supply chain.
- 6.2. Suppliers and growers must review current and proposed pesticide usage to ensure Waitrose restricted lists are taken into account as well as all legal, due diligence requirements.
- 6.3. Suppliers and growers must review pesticide usage on at least an annual basis, in line with the procedure laid out in Waitrose Pesticide Management Scheme Manual. Pesticide usage reviews should take into account;
- Pesticides currently in use.
 - Pesticide residue data and any MRL changes.
 - Any changes to cropping systems or supply base.
 - Any likely pesticide legislative restrictions.
 - New pesticides that have been made available.
 - Any alternative control measures being developed.

- Further implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Crop Management (ICM) techniques that promote plant health and vigor, reduce pest presence and activity, and increase plant tolerance or resistance to pest damage.

The above list is not exhaustive. Results of pesticide reviews are to be recorded and presented to Waitrose as part of scorecard meetings on an annual basis.

Category	Use	Further Requirements
Black	Prohibited	Prohibited from use on crops grown for Waitrose
Red	Must be removed from cropping systems	If removal is not immediately possible, risk assessment is required according to 6.3 and must include an elimination plan. Waitrose targets a 5% per year reduction in the numbers of Red List pesticides submitted on PPPL's
Amber	Pesticides on Waitrose 'monitored list'. To be avoided where possible	Where it is unavoidable, the supplier must ensure usage minimises risk and record usage by country, grower and crop type

- 6.4. The Waitrose Black, Red and Amber list of chemicals of concern does not take precedence over any local, national or international legislation or recognised codes of practice whether pre-existing or subsequently introduced.
- 6.5. Further to the prohibitions laid out 5.9, any other application of these pesticides must be subject to a detailed risk assessment and submitted to Waitrose where the effect on bees must be demonstrated to have been minimised or eliminated by the timing of application, the exclusion of bees from the crop or the application method. In line with current legislation, there are no restrictions on the use of these insecticides in non-bee attractive crops. However as with all insecticides best practice must be followed.
- 6.6. Waitrose aims to avoid pesticide residues in food. Occurrences of pesticide residues detected in the Waitrose Pesticide Residue Surveillance program must be investigated by the supplier if they are;
- Above the Maximum Residue Level (MRL)
 - Above 50% of the MRL

- 5 or more residues detected in a sample
- Unapproved usage of pesticides
- Detections of Waitrose Black List pesticides

Results of those investigations and corrective actions must be shared with Waitrose.

For serious Out of Specification detections a closing meeting must be held with the supplier and representatives from Waitrose to sign off the investigation and corrective actions

- 6.7. Waitrose has a transparent policy on its management of pesticides within its Fresh Produce supply base. The Waitrose Pesticide Policy, the Black, Red and Amber lists, and the results of our Pesticide Residue Testing Programs, including interpretation of results and actions taken for any exceedances are published in the appropriate section of our website.

7. Accountabilities and Responsibilities

This Policy has been created by the Waitrose Technical Policy Framework, who have ensured that it is consistent with the Partnership Constitution and applicable regulatory requirements. This document will be reviewed annually.

8. Monitoring of Controls

This policy will be monitored via the Waitrose nominated supply database. Waitrose Technical Partners are responsible for ensuring compliance to this policy.

9. Assurance

Assurance on the effective operation of the Policy will be provided to the Waitrose Technical Policy Steering Group at least annually.

10. Derogations

Derogations to this policy may be applied for according to the appropriate Waitrose Policy

11. Further Information

[UK Pesticide Database MRLs](#)

[EU Pesticide Database MRLs](#)

[CODEX Pesticide Database MRLs](#)

[PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#)