

**Global Maximum Residue
Limits (MRLs) and
Contaminants Updates:
August 2026**

Released by the American Pecan Council

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Global Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Contaminants Updates: August 2026

A Quarterly Report Released by the American Pecan Council

A Practical Reference for Exporters, Shellers, Growers, Researchers,
and Stakeholders to Protect the Pecan Export Trade

Report Highlights At-A-Glance

EU UPDATES:

a. New MRLs for tree nuts (including pecans):

- i. Profenofos: 0.01 mg/kg
- ii. Chlorfenapyr: 0.01 mg/kg
- iii. Dicofol: 0.02 mg/kg
- iv. Endosulfan (sum of alpha- and beta-isomers and endosulfan-sulphate expressed as endosulfan) (F): 0.03 mg/kg
- v. Fenarimol: 0.01 mg/kg
- vi. Fenpropathrin: 0.01 mg/kg

b. The EU Commission published a Regulation amending MRLs for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, chlormequat, metribuzin, metribuzin-desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK), terbuthylazine and triclopyr

- i. 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene (R) (F): 0.03 mg/kg
- ii. Metribuzin: 0.01 mg/kg
- iii. Metribuzin-DADK: 0.01 mg/kg

CONTAMINANTS:

- The EU platform AGRINFO organised a webinar on the new EU Mineral Oils Aromatic Hydrocarbons (MOAH) rules on 22 and 25 June, including DG SANTE update – new rules expected to apply from 1 January 2027. **ML for tree nuts (including pecans): 2 mg/kg** (Limit of Quantification, LOQ).
- The EU Member States signed a joint statement agreeing to start a provisional enforcement of the approved Maximum Levels for Mineral Oils Aromatic Hydrocarbons.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- The Agrifood Chain Sustainability Roundtable held a meeting on 29 June – main topics under discussion were PPWR (Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation), PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), Corporate sustainability due diligence guidelines, Green



Claims and ECGT Directive implementation (Empowering Consumers for Green Transition), on-farm sustainability benchmark, forced labour regulation.

EU's Food and Feed Omnibus Proposal:

- Omnibus proposals are currently being discussed by the Council and the Parliament. The discussions now focus on one specific proposal regarding the approach to setting Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for the “most harmful pesticides”. These substances still need to be defined by an assessment which is expected to be published during the summer.
- We observe that the initial Commission proposal is becoming more stringent in the Council and Parliament – the most restrictive possibility would be to automatically lower the MRL to the limit of quantification (LOQ) in case the pesticide is banned in the EU. Discussions are also expected to include reciprocity of production standards in third countries.

Why does this matter to the pecan industry? Commercial pecan production relies on a variety of insecticides and fungicides that may not all have active EU approvals. As a result: Export orchards may require different pest management programs than domestic orchards. Exporters may need additional residue testing before shipment. Traceability from orchard to export lot will become increasingly important. Production costs for EU-bound pecans could increase.

More information from the US government on this topic can be found [here](#).

Rest-of-World Updates

- **Japan:** The reduced MRL of Trifloxystrobin to .02 mg/kg is set to be implemented in December. Alert APC to any compliance issues.
- Please review other forthcoming MRL adjustments and alert APC of any issues. No other new MRLs worldwide to report.

APC is now monitoring MRLs and Contaminants globally and will share this information in these quarterly reports. However, APC depends on the industry to provide feedback and input on how to make these reports more valuable. While APC cannot lobby for changes, it can educate export markets about the essential elements of pecan production and processing.

Purpose of This Report

As pecans expand into new export markets, there is a growing need to adapt to changing food regulations. In fact, there are numerous MRLs and contaminants proposed, revised, and changed each year. This report summarizes the potential changes to MRLs for pesticides and contaminant substances used in pecan production and processing across major export markets.

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Sources and Key Terms

This report is based on data from a global MRL and contaminant database called FoodChain ID and consultants APC hired to navigate the EU markets. Within this report, you will find various key terms:

- **Pending** entails an MRL that is approved but the effective date is in the future; the MRL is not yet in force.
- **Proposed** entails a draft MRL cited in a proposal, draft amendment, or petition that is still proceeding through the regulatory process. These include proposed new and revised MRLs. These proposed actions are subject to change before being officially established in a regulation, or the proposals may be withdrawn.
- **Pending Revocation** means proposal, amendment, or petition to revoke the MRL is in the regulatory process. These proposed actions are subject to change or withdrawal.

The contaminants included in the report are pending expiration, pending revisions, or being proposed that may influence the pecan industry.

- **Pending Expiration** are contaminants that are in place, but the date of expiration is approaching.
- **Pending Revisions** to the contaminants are current contaminants that have revisions that are awaiting approval to change details on that contaminant substance.
- **Proposed** entails contaminants that have become relevant concern in a product and thresholds have been proposed to manage the contaminant.

Take Action/ Recommendations

The American Pecan Council asks for your feedback on this report in order to modify to better serve the pecan industry. The goal is for this report to be a useful, educational resource to advance our industry and ensure high quality pecans reach successful export markets.

- **For Exporters:** Exporters are encouraged to stay informed on new or changing MRLs through American Pecan Council reports and regulatory updates from EPA and Codex. The APC encourages exporters to provide feedback or any additional MRL and contaminant concerns to ensure we can build strong, trusted markets.
- **For Shellers:** Stay informed about international MRL and contaminant requirements to ensure that incoming lots meet the necessary residue standards for your target destinations. Shellers also play a vital

role in communicating observed residue concerns or regulatory updates back to growers and industry partners.

- **For Growers:** Review the reports that APC will be releasing with any changes or new MRLs and contaminants, and talk to your buyers to understand whether new regulations require changes in orchard management.
- **For Researchers:** Identify gaps in current research to address changing MRLs and contaminants through genetics and cultural management techniques. As well providing guidance to explore residue reduction strategies and provide supplemental education to extension agents on how growers can prevent and mitigate issues regarding MRLs and contaminants when producing pecans.

Pending and Proposed MRLs by Country

The charts in this section provide breakdown of pesticide MRLs that are currently being proposed or pending a revision. Currently, the European Union and Japan have actively changing MRLs that may impact the pecan industry.

European Union

Market	Index Pesticide	Published Commodity Name	Index Commodity	MRL (ppm)	MRL Type	MRL State	MRL Effective Date
European Union	1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.05	General	Current	Feb 22, 2023
	1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.03	General	Pending	Jan 06, 2027
	Benfluralin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.02	General	Current	May 18, 2015
	Benfluralin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Aug 12, 2026
	Benomyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.1	General	Current	Oct 10, 2010
	Benomyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Jan 29, 2027
	Benthiavalicarb-isopropyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.02	General	Current	Nov 13, 2014
	Benthiavalicarb-isopropyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Aug 12, 2026
	Carbendazim	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.1	General	Current	Jan 01, 2012
	Carbendazim	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Jan 29, 2027
	Ethephon	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.1	General	Current	Oct 20, 2017
	Ethephon	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.02	General	Pending	Aug 19, 2026
	Metribuzin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.1	General	Current	Sep 01, 2008
	Metribuzin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Jan 06, 2027
	Metribuzin-desamino-diketo (Metribuzin-DADK)		Nut, pecan	0.01	Default	Current	



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	Metribuzin-desamino-diketo (Metribuzin-DADK)	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Jan 06, 2027
	Thiophanate-methyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.2	General	Current	Jan 01, 2012
	Thiophanate-methyl	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.01	General	Pending	Jan 29, 2027

Japan

Market	Index Pesticide	Published Commodity Name	Index Commodity	MRL (ppm)	MRL Type	MRL State	MRL Effective Date
Japan	Trifloxystrobin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.04	General	Current	April 15, 2011
	Trifloxystrobin	Pecans	Nut, pecan	0.02	General	Pending	December 16, 2026

OTHER

- **CANADA**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **UNITED STATES**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **MEXICO**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **INDONESIA**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **AUSTRALIA**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **SOUTH AFRICA**- No current or pending MRL changes.
- **CHINA**- No current or pending MRL changes.

Pending and Proposed Contaminants by Country

The charts in this section provide breakdown of contaminants that are being proposed or pending a revision. Currently, the European Union and South Africa have contaminants that are pending expirations, pending revisions, and new proposals that may impact the pecan industry. Other countries have contaminant limits that currently remain in place with no significant implications on pecan production.

European Union

Market	European Union
Contaminant	Mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH)
Food Category	Nuts and seeds
Commodity	5.5.3 Tree nuts
Maximum Level (ppm)	2
State	Proposed
Regulation Effective Date	
Regulatory Notes	Fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, cereals, oilseeds and spices as listed in the relevant category as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1). For the purpose of this Regulation tree nuts are not covered by the maximum level for fruits.

Market	European Union
Contaminant	Nickel
Food Category	Nuts and seeds
Commodity	3.6.1.2 Chestnuts, pine nuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts and pecan nuts
Maximum Level (ppm)	10
State	Proposed
Regulation Effective Date	
Regulatory Notes	The maximum level applies to the edible part. The maximum level does not apply to tree nuts for crushing and oil refining, provided that the remaining pressed tree nuts are not placed on the market as food. In case the remaining pressed tree nuts are placed on the market as food, the maximum level applies, taking into account Article 3(1) and (2). Fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, cereals, oilseeds, herbs and spices as listed in the relevant category as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1). Tree nuts are not covered by the maximum level for fruit.

Market	European Union
Contaminant	Nickel
Food Category	Nuts and seeds
Commodity	3.6.10.2 Oilseeds: Peanuts
Maximum Level (ppm)	12
State	Pending
Regulation Effective Date	7/1/2026
Regulatory Notes	The maximum level does not apply to oilseeds for crushing and oil refining, provided that the remaining pressed oilseeds are not placed on the market as food. In case the remaining pressed oilseeds are placed on the market as food, the maximum level applies, taking into account Article 3(1) and (2). Fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, cereals, oilseeds, herbs and spices as listed in the relevant category as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1). Tree nuts are not covered by the maximum level for fruit.

South Africa

Market	South Africa	
Contaminant	Aflatoxin B1	Aflatoxins, total
Food Category	Nuts and seeds	
Commodity	All other foodstuffs not specified (ready-to-eat)	
Maximum Level (ppm)	0.005	0.01
State	Pending	Pending
Regulation Effective Date	2/6/28	2/6/28
Regulatory Notes	No regulatory notes.	Aflatoxin B1 should not exceed 5 ppb.

OTHER

- **CHINA**- No current or pending contaminant changes.
- **TURKEY** - No current or pending contaminant changes.
- **UNITED STATES**- No current or pending contaminant changes.
- **MEXICO**- No current or pending contaminant changes.
- **AUSTRALIA**- No current or pending contaminant changes.
- **CANADA**- No current or pending contaminant changes.

European Union Specific Updates

APC contracts with Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Association (SACAR) to provide pecan-specific updates on the EU market. Below is the recently provided report:

COMMISSION/MEMBER STATES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING VOTING RESULTS

In June, the voting results of the Standing Committee on Residues (SCOPAFF) meeting on 18 - 19 May 2026 became available.

Draft(s) presented for an opinion

- MRLs for acequinocyl, deltamethrin, dodine, maleic hydrazide, pinoxaden and prothioconazole

No changes for pecans

Vote: favourable opinion

- MRLs for ametoctradin, cyflumetofen, diflufenican and milbemectin

No changes for pecans

Vote: postponed

- MRLs for azoxystrobin, etofenprox, fenpropidin, flupyradifurone, hexythiazox, imazalil,

spinosad and tebufenozide

New MRL for pecans for tebufenozide: 0,04 mg/kg; no changes for the other substances

Vote: favourable opinion

- MRLs for difenoconazole

New MRL for pecans: 0,03 mg/kg

Vote: favourable opinion

- MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin

New MRL for pecans for alpha-cypermethrin: 0,015 mg/kg; no changes for cypermethrin

Vote: favourable opinion**Draft(s) presented for discussion (pecans are not concerned)**

- MRLs for azocyclotin, chlorfenapyr, cyhexatin, dicofol, endosulfan, fenarimol, fenpropathrin and profenofos
- MRLs for carbofuran, imazalil, mandipropamid, propaquizafop, quizalofop-P-ethyl, and quizalofop-P-tefuryl
- MRLs for diazinon and bixlozone

The drafts are available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/1422/oj

Meeting agenda and summary are available at: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/direct-transport-or-non-manipulation-or-non-alteration-rules>

Disclaimer: We issue reports to inform APC of ongoing regulatory developments at EU level. Every effort is made to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date. If errors, omissions, or misleading statements are brought to our attention, we will try to correct them. However, we accept no legal responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the information provided in this report and use made thereof.

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