AUGUST 2025

Cranberry MRL Issues

European Union

EU Pesticide Policy: Initial Impact of the "Vision for Agriculture and Food"

As highlighted in the previous Issues Review, the European Commission's "Vision for Agriculture and Food" outlines its future policy objectives, emphasizing a strong commitment to reducing pesticide use within the EU while maintaining agricultural productivity. We are now observing the tangible effects of this new "Vision" in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) discussions.

Specifically, the Commission intends to conduct an **impact assessment for non-approved substances**. This crucial step aims to prevent pesticides banned in the EU from re-entering the market via imported products. This impact assessment will also consider the **competitive and international implications** before any changes to the legal framework are proposed. Consequently, this requirement for an impact assessment may initially delay the Commission's actions on EU MRLs for substances no longer approved in the EU. This could be welcome news for the cranberry industry.

At the June SCoPAFF meeting, the Commission presented an updated table of non-approved substances. This table notably introduced a new "**on hold**" category, specifically listing active substances that will be reviewed only after the aforementioned impact assessment, announced in the "Vision for Agriculture and Food," is completed. As a direct result, there were no discussions concerning **quinclorac** or **mancozeb**, two substances of high priority for the industry, during this meeting.

Priority Cranberry Pesticide Developments in the EU:

Difenoconazole (Quadris Top)
In June 2025, the European Commission published a new draft proposal on **difenoconazole**, in which the EU upheld the proposal of the cranberry MRL at 0.6 ppm. **This is good news for the cranberry industry**. As the industry may recall, in September 2024, EFSA outlined either increasing the MRL to 0.6 ppm or reducing the MRL to the undefined limit of quantification (LOQ).

After review, EFSA concluded that the 0.6 ppm level posed no risks to consumers and deemed it appropriate to increase the MRL from 0.1 ppm to 0.6 ppm. The Commission then presented a new draft proposal in February 2025, in which the MRL for difenoconazole on cranberries was increased to 0.6 ppm. This proposal is currently under consideration in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF). BCI will inform the cranberry industry when this proposed MRL advances.

Quinclorac (Quinstar) MRL in the EU

The European Commission established the cranberry MRL for quinclorac at 1.5 ppm in June 2024, which is harmonized with the U.S., Canadian, and Codex MRLs. **This remains a major victory for the cranberry industry**.

Quinclorac is not approved for use in the EU, and its MRLs are scheduled to be reviewed in the future, but the start date for that review has not yet been determined. As reported above, the EU plans to review the MRLs of all substances that are no longer approved for use, but the new "Vision" guidelines for the preparation of impact assessments may delay any potential upcoming MRL change. Since quinclorac is not approved for use in the EU, it is not clear how the impact assessment will be applied.

BCI will continue to track the discussion on quinclorac and inform the industry of any new developments.

Coming Up in the EU:

Diazinon (Diazinon): Discussions regarding **diazinon MRL restrictions** took place at the June 2025 SCoPAFF Residues meeting, but **no decision was reached**. As the industry may recall, last year EFSA recommended restricting the diazinon MRL on cranberries from 0.2 ppm to the undefined limit of quantification (LOQ) due to a lack of data.

Mancozeb (Manzate): After the MRL review, the European Commission proposed to maintain the mancozeb MRL on cranberries at 5 ppm, which is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs, and is less restrictive than the Canadian MRL (0.1 ppm). This proposal, however, has not yet been approved by SCoPAFF and was not included in the June 2025 meeting agenda. BCI will continue to monitor this proposal and inform the industry of any updates.

Priority Cranberry MRL Chart:

BCI continues to update an MRL chart created for the cranberry industry, outlining the MRL activity of priority active ingredients in important markets. Updates include MRL developments, proposal or pending status, and probable next steps. Additionally, an EU tab is included, outlining priority active ingredient developments within the EU, including approval status, expiry dates, and probable next steps. Please contact Katie Ghantous or BCI for access or more information.

Specific EU MRL Updates:

Since January 2025, the European Union has established **four** and proposed **one** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Fosetyl-al** (Aliette): established EU MRL (1.5 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. and Canadian MRLs (0.5 ppm).
- **Napropamide** (Devrinol): established EU MRL (0.01 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. and Canadian MRLs (0.1 ppm).
  - **Comments were submitted to USDA by the CI during the WTO comment period. Unfortunately, the EU established this MRL at 0.01 ppm.**

Pending:

- **Acetamiprid** (Assail/Cormoran): pending EU MRL (0.7 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. and Canadian MRLs (0.6 ppm). The new MRL will come into effect on **August 19, 2025**. Until that date, the current MRL of 2 ppm applies.
- **Fenbuconazole** (Indar): pending EU MRL (0.01 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. and Canadian MRLs (0.5 ppm). The new MRL will come into effect on **August 24, 2025**. Until that date, the current MRL of 1 ppm applies.
  - **Comments were submitted to USDA by the CI during the WTO comment period. Unfortunately, the EU will establish this MRL at 0.01 ppm.**

Proposed:

- **Difenoconazole** (Quadris Top): proposed EU MRL (0.6 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S., Codex, and Canadian MRLs. *(see above for more details)*

BCI continues to monitor MRL changes in the European Union and will notify the industry of any relevant updates.

Canada

Canada maintains its own national MRL list, does not defer to any other market standard, and applies a default MRL of 0.1 ppm. There are currently **57** cranberry MRLs that are established with corresponding U.S. MRLs in Canada. Since January 2025, Canada has established **two** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Mefentrifluconazole** (Cevya): established Canadian MRL (2 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S. and Codex MRLs.
- **Spinosad** (Entrust/Success): established Canadian MRL (0.7 ppm) is less restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.04 ppm) and the Codex MRL (0.02 ppm).
  - In June 2024, BCI identified that the **spinosad** MRL had been incorrectly set at 0.01 ppm instead of 0.7 ppm. BCI raised the issue with and submitted support comments to Canada's PMRA, which reviewed the MRL, proposed the correction, and officially established the correct MRL at 0.7 ppm in February 2025.

Japan

In June, Matt Lantz of BCI led a delegation of U.S. agricultural groups to Tokyo to review the Japanese MRL setting process for the first time in 20 years. This trip was part of the USDA's ASCE MRL initiative. Matt represented cranberries and discussed Japanese import tolerance application processes and testing protocols. Fortunately, through the efforts of BCI from 2004-2006, in the lead-up to the positive list transition, the U.S. cranberry industry is well covered in Japan and has had no issues in the market. New MRLs will be sought as needed. It is taking at least two years to have an MRL in place in Japan.

There are currently **64** cranberry MRLs that are established with corresponding U.S. MRLs in Japan. Since January 2025, Japan has established **two** and proposed **two** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Paraquat dichloride** (Gramoxone): established Japanese MRL (0.01 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (0.05 ppm) and the Canadian MRL (0.1 ppm), but is harmonized with the Codex MRL.

Pending:

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

Proposed:

- **Napropamide** (Devrinol): 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. and Canadian MRLs (0.1 ppm).
  - **BCI submitted a comment letter to USDA for this proposal, on behalf of the cranberry industry. BCI continues to monitor any updates**.
- **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) and the Canadian MRL (0.1 ppm).
  - **The industry decided not to submit comments on this proposal.**

Australia MRLs

Through Australia's FSANZ MRL harmonization request system, the cranberry industry has successfully secured numerous MRLs. The industry submitted MRL requests for five active ingredients, including **buprofezin** (Courier), **carfentrazone-ethyl** (Aim), **cyprodinil** (Inspire Super/Alterity), **folpet** (Folpan), and **pendimethalin** (Satellite Hydrocap). These requests are currently under review, and the results will be available in the coming months.

Specific Australia MRL Changes:

There are currently **86** cranberry MRLs established in Australia with corresponding U.S. MRLs. Since January 2025, Australia has established **two** MRLs on cranberries:

Established:

- **Broflanilide** (Brofreya): established Australian MRL (0.002 ppm) is more restrictive than the U.S. and Canadian MRLs (0.01 ppm).
- **Fenazaquin** (Magister): established Australian MRL (2 ppm) is harmonized with the U.S., Canada, and Codex MRLs.

Codex MRL Update

The 56th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) was postponed to September 2025. BCI's **Alinne Oliveira** will attend as part of the U.S. delegation and **Aya Stockton** will also attend as an observer. The meeting will consider the MRLs recommended by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), which met in September 2024. During that session, the JMPR did not propose any new cranberry MRLs.

Future Reviews

The industry has decided to pursue a Codex cranberry MRL for **bifenthrin** (Fanfare). This is a priority. This substance was already on the review schedule for 2025 at the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), Codex's technical committee. BCI reached out to the registrant, FMC, and asked if the cranberry MRL could be included with the other MRLs scheduled for review. FMC agreed to make the submission, saving the industry thousands of dollars. If advanced, a new Codex MRL for bifenthrin on cranberries could be approved in 2026.

In 2025, JMPR will also review two additional new cranberry MRLs for **etoxazole** (Zeal) and **fludioxonil** (Miravis Prime). The proposals made by JMPR will be considered by the CCPR in 2026.

BCI will continue to monitor Codex updates and will notify the industry in the fall of next year once JMPR has concluded its review of these substances.

Since January 2025, BCI has reviewed over **300** notifications and has informed the Cranberry industry of **34** MRL changes across **eight** markets on cranberries, including **five** MRL changes in the European Union, **four** MRL changes in Japan, **two** MRL changes in Canada, **three** MRL changes in Australia, **one** MRL change in Costa Rica, **one** MRL change in Mexico, **18** MRL changes in Indonesia, and **four** MRL changes in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Additionally, since January 2025, on behalf of the cranberry industry, BCI has submitted **two** comment letters to USDA and Canada's PMRA for proposed MRL changes in Japan and Canada, respectively.

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**. Since our last report, several key activities have taken place. In April 2025, the Cranberry Institute (CI) participated in the ASCE Stakeholder Group meeting, ensuring that the needs of the cranberry industry were met in the ASCE programs. Additionally, as reported above, BCI's Matt Lantz joined the ASCE delegation to Korea and Japan in June, to discuss **MRL policy issues**, including their import MRL application systems and enforcement policies.

The cranberry industry has also provided the ASCE MRL team with **20 priority import MRL needs** across Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Codex. The ASCE MRL projects will pursue import MRLs for those priorities where available data fulfills the foreign data requirements.

Furthermore, a new **cranberry MRL Quick Reference Sheet (QRS)** has been published and will be updated biannually. The industry can access the MRL QRS here**.**

Cranberry MRLs in Southeast Asia: An ASCE Effort

One of the ASCE projects seeks to engage with the governments of Southeast Asia on their MRL policies. The U.S. government is seeking to strengthen its relationship with the leadership of these countries and encourage them to adopt risk-based pesticide approaches (as opposed to a European Union hazard-based approach). USDA and U.S. agriculture are also interested in creating systems for seeking import MRLs in these markets, so if MRLs are needed in the future, there is a system to establish them.

The governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to conduct a pilot program on import tolerances. In order to seek import tolerances and learn about regional systems, a sample request from the U.S. was needed.

Through Matt Lantz's work with this ASCE effort, he suggested that USDA cranberry MRLs be used as an example for the pilot program. Cranberries are exported to the region and there is no production in Southeast Asia. The U.S. and Southeast Asia governments liked this idea, so in working with the CI, two potential cranberry MRL needs were selected: **clethodim** and **bifenthrin**.

The cranberry data packages were submitted to Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines for review. During April in Kuala Lumpur, the countries came together with USDA, to discuss their individual reviews of the application and make recommendations. Matt Lantz flew to Malaysia to participate in the meeting. After a day of discussions, the countries recommended adopting a cranberry MRL of 0.5 ppm for clethodim and 1.5 ppm for bifenthrin. The U.S. has an MRL of 3 for bifenthrin, but it is a crop group MRL, and when the data was plugged into the MRL calculator, 1.5 ppm emerged. The residues are well below this. Codex is also expected to recommend an MRL of 1.5 ppm next year, so the industry should be fine.

The ultimate goal of the program is to have these MRLs adopted by ASEAN as a whole, and then each country will apply them, but that is a longer-term aspiration. As for immediate next steps, this ASCE-ASEAN working group is going to recommend these two MRLs to ASEAN for approval. The group will then go through all the steps on how they will be implemented.

What will likely happen is that these two MRLs will be adopted by those countries that have systems for accepting such MRLs (Malaysia, Singapore, maybe Indonesia, and the Philippines). Thailand does not have a system for import tolerance adoption (but will apply the Codex MRL once adopted), and Vietnam has not changed MRLs in several years, so their situation is different.

The cranberry examples were helpful in advancing a new import tolerance system for seeking MRLs in the region. This work will continue.