

Before you apply desiccants / harvest management tools, make sure your products meet regulatory requirements

Desiccants (or harvest management tools) are used worldwide by growers who are producing crops that require “drying down” to create uniformity of plant material at harvest. These products may also assist in pre-harvest weed control. In Canada, products such as diquat (Reglone) and glyphosate (Roundup) have been used as desiccants in pulse crops in the past, and there are new products on the way.

Unlike most crop protection products used in Canada, desiccants and harvest management products (such as diquat, or Reglone, and glyphosate, or Roundup) are applied very late in the crop year. As a result, growers must ensure that the product residue remains below the maximum levels set by regulatory agencies, in order to avoid problems with selling their crops. Growers are also advised to always check with their processor or exporter before applying products, as some foreign markets may not even have maximum residue limits (MRLs) developed for specific products.

Here are some tips to ensure product residues remain at trace levels or levels well below accepted maximums:

- **Do not exceed the product’s labelled rate.** It is important to realize that the MRLs of individual pesticides are set to allow growers to use the product without fear of breaching domestic MRLs. However, these guidelines assume that the labelled rate is not exceeded. If you exceed that rate, you risk breaching the MRL and this can have serious consequences in terms of both domestic pesticide laws, and international acceptance of the crop.

- **Make sure you time the application according to the label.** Labels are very specific in terms of crop staging. If you apply a desiccant either before or after the recommended crop stage, you run the risk that desiccant levels will exceed legal limits.
- **Consult with your exporter or processor about which desiccants are acceptable or unacceptable in international markets.** Processors/exporters have a good sense of which markets may be sensitive to specific products. They will likely ask you what was used in your crop and you may be expected to participate in a testing/monitoring program this year.
- **Consult the chart on the next page** indicating market considerations and statuses for specific products.

By following these simple steps, pulse growers can help reduce the risk that their crops will not be accepted in international markets.

Canada’s Top Five Foreign Pulse Markets

COUNTRY
India
Bangladesh
China
Turkey
United Arab Emirates



MARKET CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPECIFIC HARVEST AIDS

Harvest Management Tools Acceptable for Pulse Markets in 2012

Market	Glyphosate as a harvest management tool (e.g. Roundup)	Diquat as a desiccant (e.g. Reglone)	Saflufenacil as a harvest management tool (e.g. HEAT)
European Union	No marketing issues associated with glyphosate residues. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	No marketing issues associated with diquat residues. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	The MRL for saflufenacil use as a preharvest use pattern is not projected to be set until 2013 for all pulses. Therefore refrain from using saflufenacil as a preharvest dry down product for this season if the crop is destined for the European Union (EU). (This applies to the preharvest use pattern only). 
CODEX countries (e.g. India, Pakistan, many others)	No marketing issues associated with glyphosate residues. The MRL was established earlier this year. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	No marketing issues associated with diquat residues. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	The MRL for saflufenacil use as a preharvest use pattern is not projected to be set until 2013 at CODEX for lentils. MRLs for saflufenacil have been set for field peas at CODEX. Therefore refrain from using saflufenacil as a preharvest dry down product for this season if the crop is destined for CODEX countries for lentils. (This applies to the preharvest use pattern only). 
Japan	Although there is an MRL set for the use of glyphosate on beans in Japan, the MRL level is set at a rigidly low level for this crop in this market. Therefore, consult with your exporter regarding beans destined for Japan. 	No marketing issues associated with diquat residues. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	The MRL for saflufenacil use as a preharvest aid is not projected to be set until 2013 at the earliest in Japan. Therefore, refrain from using saflufenacil as a pre-harvest dry down product for this season if the crop is destined for Japan. (This applies to the preharvest use pattern only). 
U.S.	No marketing issues associated with glyphosate residues. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 	Although Canada and the U.S. are working on harmonization of MRLs in pulses, the diquat MRL has not been harmonized between the two countries. Therefore, consult with your exporter regarding diquat use if the crop is going to the U.S. 	No marketing issues associated with saflufenacil residues in the U.S. The MRL is set. Follow label directions to remain within legal limits. 



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