

IVM FAQ's - Grazing

Common Questions & Practical Answers



Q: What are grazing maximum residue limits (MRL's) ?

A: Grazing MRL's are established by the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). They are only established for products that have undergone stringent testing for use of the pesticide on grass, hay or other feedstock for livestock animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. Only herbicides with MRL's should be used to treat unwanted vegetation in grazed areas. Products with MRL's may have certain grazing restrictions which are listed on the product label. The restrictions include any special instructions (such as maximum allowable use rates, how to handle hay, manure, or use for lactating dairy animals) pertaining to applying the herbicide within grazed areas.

Q: Why are MRL's important?

A: When treating an area such as a right-of-way (ROW) that crosses a pasture, even though the herbicide may be registered for use on rights-of-way, the PMRA still requires an MRL or exemption from tolerance for any food or feed commodity, including meat, milk, grass or hay. This means that unless it can be assured that no animals graze the treated area, a herbicide product without MRL's should not be used in that area. It also means that responsible vegetation managers should not use products without MRL's if the land they are treating may be grazed, as they could be cited for misapplication of a herbicide.

Q: What is the difference between a herbicide with grazing tolerances and one with grazing restrictions on its label?

A: In short, a herbicide with grazing tolerances means it has undergone extensive testing and received PMRA approval for use to treat vegetation in areas grazed by livestock. A herbicide that contains grazing restrictions on its label means that the product can be used to treat vegetation in grazed areas, but there are certain restrictions which should be followed. These restrictions could apply to use rates, application methods, or how to handle hay, manure, or the movement of livestock in and out of the treated areas. If the listed restrictions are not followed, it could be a violation of the label.

Q: Does using herbicides without MRL's increase your liability when applying near grazed areas?

A: When using herbicides with no MRL's on a right-of-way, treatment should not continue when pastures or other land susceptible to grazing animals is encountered. If treating grazed areas with a herbicide that does not have grazing tolerances, it is a violation of the label. When a pasture in a ROW has been treated the area is subject to the grazing restrictions, if any, on the product label.

Q: What is the definition of grazed areas?

A: The definition of grazed areas is somewhat broad. It mainly refers to pasture or rangeland set aside for grazing cattle or other livestock. Since rights-of-way often cross these areas vegetation managers are charged with managing these sites. When managing vegetation in these areas it is important and more efficient if the products used are labeled for every type of site on the right-of-way.

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Q: What happens if cattle eat grass treated with herbicides without established MRL's?

A: The short answer is that these animals cannot be sold or slaughtered for human consumption. This means cows, horses, goats, sheep or any animal that may graze and ingest treated grass. So, even if an animal escapes from a fenced-in pasture and grazes an area treated with a herbicide without a grazing tolerance, that animal is considered adulterated and cannot be sold for food. This is potentially devastating to ranchers and farmers who make a living selling livestock.

Q: How does Dow AgroSciences develop products that provide broad options for use?

A: When working with herbicides, vegetation managers appreciate working with broad, flexible labeling, which helps minimize potential issues with both regulatory agencies and the discerning public. It's also fundamental that users understand and follow product labels; for instance, understanding the difference between herbicides with and without MRL's.

Dow AgroSciences invests significantly in developing products with

the industry's most flexible labeling, including MRL's. The company also strives to provide easy to understand product labels to help minimize user error. Using these products as per label instructions minimizes applicator liability and provides peace of mind. Furthermore, the Canada wide team of vegetation management specialists and field scientists from Dow AgroSciences provides unparalleled customer support to help promote good stewardship when using Dow AgroSciences herbicides.

Q: What products does Dow AgroSciences offer with established MRL's ?

A: Dow AgroSciences offers a full portfolio of IVM products with grazing tolerances, all developed with the end user in mind. Dow AgroSciences' latest commitment to vegetation managers are Aminopyralid based herbicides. These products provide vegetation managers with the ultimate flexibility and convenience when making treatments. All other Dow AgroSciences IVM and Range & Pasture herbicides have established MRL's. Even with these established MRL's, some restrictions or precautions exist on certain products. Read each product label carefully for more information and make use of your local IVM Expert.

For even more information on how Dow AgroSciences can meet your vegetation management needs, call The Solutions Center at 1.800.667.3852 or visit us at IVMexperts.ca.

