

Resolution 7-24: Re-Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine for Certified Applicators

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

FURTHER, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

Response:

On March 4, 2023, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) discontinued the use of Strychnine for Richardson ground squirrel (gopher) control in Canada. This decision was based on scientific evidence to prevent harm to non-targeted species.

To address this issue, the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan filed a Notice of Objection to the cancellation of this important agricultural pesticide. However, Health Canada, via the PMRA, determined the objections were unfounded and the removal of strychnine would continue as scheduled. As such, the PMRA informed the provinces that they would not consider an appeal on the decision to de-register Strychnine for gopher control in Canada.

The PMRA also advised that an attempt to obtain access to the product through an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) would be difficult and would require collaboration with the manufacturer. An EUR is obtained when there are no other effective products available in Canada. Recognizing that there are products available for gopher control in Canada - Rozel®, Zinc Phosphide and Ramik Green® - an EUR approach is not viable.

On March 7, 2024, the PMRA announced a final re-evaluation decision to discontinue the use of all Strychnine in Canada. This decision can be found on the Health Canada website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2024/predacide-uses-strychnine-sodium-monofluoroacetate.html>

AGI presented its notice of objection to PMRA's spring 2020 decision based on scientific information we had at the time. As indicated, PMRA did not support our objection. Unfortunately, the objection period for the 2% Liquid Strychnine decision has passed.

Although AGI is not aware of any new scientific information to present to PMRA for scientific grounds of objection, please note that any person may file a notice of objection (on scientific grounds) within 60 days from the date of publication. The objection period for the March 7, 2024 decision of discontinuation of all strychnine ends on May 7, 2024. Objections can be filed at <https://pest-control.canada.ca/public-engagement-portal/en/forms/notice-objection>.

