

SIMAZINE — Effective. Affordable. Vital. *Threatened.*

The future of your crop protection tools is at stake. Now is the time to tell EPA to follow good science and let them know what simazine means to your crop production.

The facts

Simazine herbicide¹ is currently under EPA registration review, which is required of all pesticides every 15 years to update and modernize the science and risk assessments. As part of the review process, EPA recently posted its draft ecological risk assessment, which contains several data and methodological errors that need to be corrected.

- EPA re-registered simazine in 2006 and began its regularly scheduled registration re-review in June 2013, a process that typically takes six years to complete.
- In June 2016, EPA posted its draft ecological risk assessment, which included a number of scientific errors and flawed interpretations.
- The draft ecological risk assessment used certain flawed studies that do not meet EPA guideline requirements to set overly conservative levels of concern.
- The best science and data must remain the cornerstone of this important regulatory process.
- EPA has opened and extended a public comment period. You may comment on the draft assessment today through the end of the public comment period, **October 4, 2016**.
- Simazine is crucial for weed control in numerous crops including:
 - oranges, grapefruit, lemons, almonds, walnuts, pecans, macadamia nuts, hazelnuts, apples, pears, grapes, corn, cherries, peaches, plums, blueberries, strawberries, caneberries, Christmas trees, avocados, etc.
- After reviewing public comments, EPA has stated it will revise the ecological risk assessment, as appropriate.
- When given a thorough science review, we are confident that the continued, longstanding safety of simazine will once again be confirmed.

What you can do

To post a public comment on simazine:

1. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0251> for direct access to the simazine docket (EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0251)
2. Under the box “Simazine Registration Review” at top of page, click on blue “**Comments Now**” box (to the right of “Draft Ecological Risk Assessments: Atrazine, Simazine, and Propazine Registration Review”)
3. Type or paste your comments into box (max 5,000 words) and upload any documents, then press “**Continue**” button at bottom of page on right
4. On preview page, 1) review your comments, 2) check box “I read and understand the statement above,” and 3) press “Submit comment.”

¹ Simazine is the active ingredient in the products Princep® 4L herbicide, Princep Caliber 90® herbicide and other similar products.

Please consider submitting comments to EPA. Information capturing the value simazine brings to your weed control program, such as what is reflected in the example text below, will be especially helpful to EPA.

My farming operation consists of _____ acres of ____ (crops)____. Simazine is important to my operation for the following reasons: _____ (examples: managing hard-to-control and herbicide-resistant weeds, cost-effective weed control, increased yields, fewer trips across the field, crop safety, flexible timing of application, etc.)_____. Without simazine my weed control program will _____ (examples: not be as effective, alternatives would cost \$[X] more per acre, my herbicide program will be less sustainable, etc.)_____.

What simazine means to agriculture:

- After almost 60 years, simazine – a triazine herbicide – remains one the most effective herbicides for use on certain fruit and nut crops, corn and Christmas tree plantings.
- Highly-effective, low cost weed control solution that demonstrates superior safety to the target crops and increased yields.
- Has been the backbone of weed control in several specialty crops in the U.S. and is especially important in many minor use crops where there are few alternatives.
- Use of simazine in permanent crops is essential to water conservation as well as frost protection in citrus.
- Reduces the need to till which decreases soil erosion and helps protect perennial tree and vine crops from injury by tillage equipment.
- Is a crucial tool for herbicide resistant weed management.
- Increased costs of alternatives can range from approximately \$6-\$41/A or higher depending on crop and weed spectrum.
- This important tool for sustainable agriculture deserves a scientific process that includes the best available data and a thorough and comprehensive scientific review.

Important links

- www.Agsense.org

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