

New conditions of use for products containing diuron used in sugarcane

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) commenced a review of diuron in 2002 and released its final decision on 28 November 2012. Significant changes to the use of products containing diuron in sugarcane have been made and are now in effect.

Products containing diuron purchased with new labelling: conditions of use

Any diuron based products being sold now should have a new label affixed. For a short time period, some containers may have both an old label and new label attached. In this case, follow the new label instructions.

New approved labels have a unique APVMA approval number, in the format: [product code]/1112

Examples: 1) Farmoz Diuron 900 WDG – APVMA No. 52176/1112 2) Crop Care Barrage – APVMA Approval No. 59557/1112

'No-spray' windows for products containing diuron only

(Example: Nufarm Diuron 900 DF, Crop Care Diurex® WG, Farmoz Diuron 900 WDG)

Sugarcane growing area	Usage rate and application method	
	Boom applied	Directed band spray – maximum 60% of crop area – after cane emergence
	Up to 450 g diuron active/ha	More than 450 g, up to 1.8 kg diuron active/ha
	Certain products only (example: Nufarm Diuron 900 DF) – check label of specific products as not all products have the same registered uses	All products
Wet Tropics	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited all year
Burdekin	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited from 1 January to 29 February
Mackay - Whitsunday	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited from 1 December to 30 April
Burnett - Mary	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited from 1 November to 29 February
NSW	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited from 1 November to 30 April

'No-spray' windows for products containing both diuron and hexazinone

(Example: Dupont™ Velpar®K4™DF®, Farmoz Bobcat® Combi WG, Crop Care Barrage)

Sugarcane growing area	Usage rate and application method			1 kg product/100 L Spot spray
	Up to 450 g diuron active/ha	1.4 to 1.8 kg diuron active/ha		
	Plant and ratoons Directed spray	Ratoons Before cane and weed emergence Boom or banded	Plant and ratoons After cane emergence Directed band spray over maximum 60% of crop area	
Wet Tropics	Use anytime with paraquat	Prohibited all year	Prohibited all year	Use anytime up to a maximum of 5% of total farm area
Burdekin		Prohibited 1 Dec – 29 Feb	Prohibited 1 Jan – 29 Feb	
Mackay - Whitsunday		Prohibited 1 Nov – 31 May	Prohibited 1 Nov – 31 May	
Burnett - Mary		Prohibited 1 Nov – 31 May	Prohibited 1 Nov – 29 Feb	
NSW		Prohibited 1 Nov – 30 April	Prohibited 1 Nov – 31 March	

Label restraints

- Do not use in water-logged areas.
- Do not apply if greater than 50 mm rainfall is expected within 3 days of application.
- Do not irrigate within 3 days of application.
- Do not apply to fields where the slope exceeds 3%.
- Do not spot spray more than 5% of total farm area.
- Do not apply more than once per calendar year.

Irrigation channels and drains

- Do not use in irrigation channels or drains **unless all** irrigation tailwater and rainfall can be captured and held on farm.

Spray drift restraints

- Do not apply by air.
- Do not apply with spray droplets smaller than **coarse** spray droplet size category according to nozzle manufacturer specifications that refer to the ASAE S572 Standard or the BCPC Guideline.

Users of products containing diuron **must** make an accurate written record of the details of each spray application within 24 hours following application and **keep** this record for a minimum of 2 years. The spray application details that must be recorded are:

1. Date with start and finish times of application.
2. Location address and paddock/s sprayed.
3. Full name of this product.
4. Amount of products used per hectare and number of hectares applied to.
5. Crop/situation and weed/pest.
6. Wind speed and direction during application.
7. Air temperature and relative humidity during application.
8. Nozzle brand, type, spray angle, nozzle capacity and spray system pressure measured during application.
9. Name and address of person applying this product. (Additional record details may be required by the State or Territory where this product is used).

Mandatory no-spray zone

The table below sets out the mandatory no-spray zones for situations when:

1. Terrestrial – there is non-target vegetation **downwind** from the application area.
2. Aquatic – there are aquatic and wetland areas including aquacultural ponds, surface streams and rivers **downwind** from the application area.

Application rate of active constituent (g ac/ha)	Terrestrial	Aquatic
Up to 450 g active/ha	50 m	25 m
1800 (1.8 kg active/ha)	200 m	100 m

Always read the label for the product you intend using!

Old product stock with non-approved labels: use under Permit conditions

APVMA permit, PER 13874, allows for the phase out of old stock products that have not had new labels attached to them. This permit details the conditions of use for stocks of diuron based products that do not have the new labels attached. It is effective from **28 November 2012 to 28 November 2013**. This permit is particularly important for growers in the Wet Tropics, as it allows them to use diuron based products from 1 April 2013 to 28 November 2013 at up to 1.8 kg active diuron per hectare.

This permit can be downloaded from:
<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER13874.PDF>

Growers using existing product stocks must have a copy of this permit on hand.

Under this permit, the conditions for using products containing diuron in sugarcane are:

- **Do not use in sugarcane between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013.**
- Do not apply more than 1.8 kilograms of diuron active per hectare in any 12 month period.
- Do not use in irrigation channels or drainage ditches unless all irrigation tailwater and rainfall can be captured and held on farm.
- Do not apply by air.
- Do not use in water-logged areas.
- Do not apply if greater than 50 mm of rainfall is expected within 3 days of application.
- Do not irrigate within 3 days of application.
- Do not apply to fields where slope exceeds 3%.
- Do not replant treated areas within 2 years of application of diuron except when otherwise stated on label.
- Do not apply within 20 m of a down slope water body, unless a minimum 5 m wide effective vegetated treatment area (EVTA) between the edge of the downslope water body and any points where low flow runoff exits the inter-row furrows of the crop.
- Do not apply when there is non-target terrestrial vegetation within 130 m downwind from the application area.
- Apply as a **coarse** spray only.
- Do not spot spray greater than 5% of total farm area.

Old stocks of products containing diuron that do not have the new label affixed may be used between 1 April 2013 and 28 November 2013, but only at a maximum rate of 1.8 kilogram of diuron active per hectare, and in accordance with the other permit conditions listed above. After 28 November 2013, all use of diuron based products in sugarcane will be in accordance with the new labelling requirements.

Important: Stocks of product with non-approved labels may be used as per new label instructions as long as the new label for the same specific product is attached to that container. In this case the new label conditions would apply instead of the permit (PER 1387) conditions.

Full details of the APVMA's review of diuron can be found at:
www.apvma.gov.au/products/review/completed/diuron.php