

Proposed Groundwater Standards

Wis. Admin. Code NR 140
Cycle 11



Flumetsulam

How is it used in Wisconsin?

Flumetsulam is a selective herbicide used to control broadleaf weeds in corn and soybeans. Flumetsulam works by interfering with the production of amino acids within a plant that will eventually slow the metabolism of the plant and result in death of the weed. It was first registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1985.

What are some products that contain this substance?

Flumetsulam is registered in Wisconsin for use in 15 products. Some common agricultural products include TripleFlex/SureStart, Smackdown, and Staunch.

Who manufactures this substance?

Dow AgroSciences is the original manufacturer, but it is also manufactured by Loveland, Bayer, AMVAC, and Sharda USA LLC.

Why has this substance been recommended for establishment of groundwater standards?

There is currently no standard for flumetsulam in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has tested for it since 2015. As of November 2021 flumetsulam was detected in:

- 19 of 1,467 private wells samples, and
- 44 out of 659 field edge monitoring well samples.

A standard will help homeowners and state agencies make decisions about future water use and potential public health concerns.

What are the proposed standards?

- Enforcement standard: 10 mg/L (milligrams per liter)
- Preventive action limit standard: 2 mg/L

Has this substance been detected above the proposed groundwater standards?

No. Since 2015 it has not been detected above the proposed enforcement standard or preventive action limit in any samples collected by DATCP. The highest concentration of flumetsulam detected in a private well sample collected by DATCP was 0.984 µg/L. It was detected at concentrations between 0.0502 and 0.984 µg/L in 44 field edge monitoring well samples.

Where can I find more information?

- Health-based standards:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>
- NR 140 rule process:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Groundwater/NR140.html>

Who do I contact for questions?

DATCP Groundwater Specialist
(608) 224-4503
datcpgw@wisconsin.gov

This fact sheet provides general information for this pesticide ingredient. A groundwater quality standard has been proposed for this substance in accordance with state law (Wis. Stat. § 160).

