

Proposed Groundwater Standards

Wis. Admin. Code NR 140
Cycle 10



Dacthal/Dacthal MTP/Dacthal TPA

How is it used in Wisconsin?

Dacthal is an active ingredient used as an herbicide to control grasses and broadleaf weeds. Products that contain dacthal are primarily applied to a variety of ornamental and turf plants, strawberries, and vegetables. Dacthal is available for commercial use only and does not have residential uses. In weeds, dacthal inhibits the normal cell division of root tips and prevents growth. The herbicide was first registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1958.

Dacthal MTP (MTP) and dacthal TPA (TPA) form when dacthal breaks down in the environment. These broken down products are also called metabolites. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has proposed a combined health standard for all three compounds, dacthal+MTP+TPA.

What are some products that contain this substance?

Dacthal is the active ingredient in one product sold in Wisconsin (Dacthal Flowable Herbicide). Use of this product includes ornamental turf, vegetable crops, and strawberries.

Who manufactures this substance?

AMVAC (American Vanguard Corporation) is the current manufacturer of dacthal.

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

Since 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has detected MTP and TPA in samples collected from monitoring wells installed near fields having known dacthal use. These breakdown compounds were also detected in four private well samples collected by DATCP, but the parent

compound dacthal was not detected. A standard will help homeowners and state agencies make decisions about ongoing water use and potential public health concerns related to the use of this compound.

What are the proposed standards?

For dacthal, MTP, and TPA (combined):

- Enforcement standard: 70 µg/L (micrograms per liter)
- Preventive action limit standard: 7µg/L

Has this substance been detected above the proposed groundwater standards?

Yes. In 2019, the highest combined concentration detected in samples collected from monitoring wells near fields with known dacthal use was 445 µg/L. In private well samples, the highest combined concentration result was 8.5 µg/L.

Where can I find more information?

- This and other pesticides:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/GroundwaterStdsPesticides.aspx
- 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).

