

BENTAZONE WATER STEWARDSHIP

BASF's recommendations for responsible use of bentazone products

Updated April 2019

Environment Agency data shows that bentazone (the herbicide active substance in Basagran® SG and other products) is the most frequently detected approved pesticide in UK groundwater and is also increasingly being found in surface water. Due to the link between EU legislation on pesticides and on water, it is possible that the EU approval for bentazone will not be renewed, resulting in the loss of all bentazone products across Europe.

BASF's Bentazone Water Stewardship Programme is a proactive initiative aimed at encouraging responsible product use. **BASF's advice was updated in 2017** to include recommendations for **surface water** in addition to **groundwater High Risk Areas**, i.e. Drinking Water Groundwater Safeguard Zones (for bentazone or nitrates) ([see Gov.uk "check for zones"](#)) and Groundwater Source Protection Zones 1+2. [See Natural England "Magic Map"](#).

The Voluntary Initiative's Water Protection Advice Sheet (WPAS) for Bentazone was updated in 2017 to reflect BASF's recommendations below (see last page).

GROUNDWATER		High Risk Areas*	All Other Areas
Soils	Shallow and stony soils on chalk / limestone	Do not use	Avoid use
	Shallow soils on sandstone	Do not use	Avoid use
	With shallow groundwater	Do not use	Avoid use
	With low organic carbon (<1%)	Do not use	Avoid use
	Other soils	OK to use	OK to Use
Timing	Spring & Summer	OK to use after 1st April	OK to Use
	Autumn & Winter	Do not use	Do not use
Rate	All soils	Do not use >1000g ai/ha/year	Avoid use of >1000g ai/ha/year

* Drinking Water Groundwater Safeguard Zones for bentazone or nitrate, Groundwater Source Protection Zones 1+2 ([see Gov.uk "check for zones"](#) and for ground water source protection zones 1+2. [See Natural England "Magic Map"](#).)

SURFACE WATER	
Rainfall	Do not apply if heavy rainfall is likely within 48 hours
Drainflow	Avoid application when drains are flowing or likely to flow within 7 days
Run-off, Spray drift	Use a minimum 6m grass buffer strip or 5m no-spray zone adjacent to watercourses

Basagran® SG contains bentazone. Basagran® is a registered trademark of BASF.