

Water Stewardship

Herbicide Application Requires Careful Management to Protect our Water Sources

In areas where a range of agricultural enterprises co-exist, conflicts can arise, particularly with the use of pesticides. A major problem that can occur is damage to susceptible crops caused by “off-target” herbicide drift. All herbicides are capable of drift if applied in the wrong manner or conditions, regardless of the active ingredient or the formulation type.

Herbicide users have a moral and legal responsibility to prevent herbicides from drifting and contaminating or damaging neighbouring crops or environmentally sensitive areas. Off-target crops may be up to 10,000 times more sensitive than the crop being sprayed. Even small quantities of drifting herbicide can cause severe damage to highly sensitive plants.

Over 50% of phenoxy which gets into water is point source.

The challenge

They are all very soluble.

They don't get locked up much in the soil.

Easy for them to leach into field drains and ground water.

The good

The half life varies but is relatively short i.e. less than a month.

If there is a reasonably thick crop canopy it can be intercepted.

They can be taken out by water companies if plant was put in place prior to the water framework directive.

Measures to remove oestrogen in the future will actually remove phenoxies too.



 **Nufarm**

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