

Bentazone water stewardship rate reduction



Data from the Environment Agency has shown that bentazone (e.g. Nufarm's Benta 480) is the approved pesticide in UK most frequently found in groundwater and is also increasingly being found in surface water. Due to the link between EU legislation on pesticides and water, it is possible that the EU approval for bentazone will not be renewed, resulting in the loss of all bentazone products across Europe with serious implications for a number of crops, especially peas and beans, linseed, onions and maize.

Basic principles of water stewardship

- Avoid point pollution sources from spillages, sprayer washing, and remnants. Whenever possible, clean your sprayer inside and outside in the field, more than 10 metres away from water bodies and wells.
- If your field borders on surface water use drift-reduction nozzles and respect at least 5 meters of permanently vegetated (untreated) buffer strip zone alongside surface water bodies.
- Be aware of fields with high runoff risk: take measures to minimize runoff from fields and avoid pesticide use shortly (< 48 hours) before heavy rainfall (> 5mm)
- Avoid application of plant protection products on drained land shortly before (>48 hours) rainfall, and when drains are flowing.

Reduction in maximum rate of use

In an industry stewardship agreement the maximum rate of bentazone has been reduced to 1000g/ha (2.0 l/ha Benta 480).

Current Benta 480 labels will continue to show the maximum rate as 3.0 l/ha until new product enters the distribution chain.

Use of adjuvants with Benta 480 on Field beans

The following adjuvants have been shown to be safe up to the maximum rate of 2.0 l/ha of Benta 480 on Field beans:

- Wetcit 0.5% of spray volume
- Methylated seed oils e.g. Phase II 0.5%, Toil 0.75% of spray volume

The addition of adjuvants may reduce crop safety so the label guidance on application conditions should be strictly followed.

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Recommendations for sustainable use of Benta

	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".)

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



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Nufarm Technical updates are eligible for 1 BASIS CPT/year Ref: **CP/100840/2021/g**. Email claim to linda@basis-reg.co.uk

Benta 480 contains bentazone
Benta 480 is a Sharda trademark

Details of application rates and timings are given in Nufarm labels and product literature, both of which can be accessed from our website www.nufarm.com/uk. Alternatively, ring the Nufarm helpline on 01274 694714, Monday to Friday 9.00 - 17.00

Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. For label and safety information, refer to the Nufarm website www.nufarm.com/uk. Nufarm UK Ltd, Wyke Lane, Wyke, Bradford, BD12 9EJ.

