

FLORPYRAUXIFEN-BENZYL CHEMICAL FACT SHEET

Formulations

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is a relatively new herbicide that was first registered with the U.S. EPA in 2017. The active ingredient is 4-amino-3-chloro-6-(4-chloro-2-fluoro-3-methoxyphenyl)-5-fluoro-pyridine-2-benzyl ester, also identified as florpyrauxifen-benzyl.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is labeled for control of submerged, floating and emergent aquatic plants using surface, subsurface or foliar application in slow-moving and quiescent waters. Commercial formulations approved for aquatic use in Wisconsin include ProcellaCOR™ EC*.

Aquatic Use and Considerations

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is a systemic herbicide (i.e., it moves throughout the plant tissue). It is a WSSA Group 4 herbicide, meaning that the mechanism of action is by mimicking the plant growth hormone auxin and causing excessive elongation of plant cells, ultimately killing the plant. Affected plants may show atypical growth patterns (e.g., large and/or twisted leaves, stem elongation), and leaf and shoot tissue may become fragile. While initial effects will become apparent within a few days after treatment, it will take two to three weeks for the full plant decomposition process to occur. Florpyrauxifen-benzyl should be applied to plants that are actively growing; mature plants may require a higher concentration of herbicide and a longer contact time compared to smaller, less established plants.

It is important to note that repeated use of herbicides in the same WSSA group (i.e., with the same mechanism of action) can lead to herbicide-resistant plants, even in aquatic

environments. In order to reduce the risk of developing resistant genotypes, avoid using the same type of herbicides year after year, and utilize effective integrated pest management strategies as part of any long-term control program.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl has relatively short contact exposure time (CET) requirements (typically 12 to 24 hours). The short CET may be advantageous for localized treatments of submerged aquatic plants, however, the target species efficacy compared to the size of the treatment area is not yet known. In some Wisconsin lakes impacts to target and non-target plants have been observed in areas beyond the targeted treatment areas, and research is ongoing to better understand the herbicide's dissipation and degradation patterns across various lake types.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is labeled for control of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), hybrid watermilfoil (*M. spicatum x sibiricum*) and yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)[†]. Native species listed on the product label as susceptible to florpyrauxifen-benzyl include coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), and American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)[†].

Preliminary results from pre- and post-treatment monitoring conducted on a subset of Wisconsin lakes observed negative impacts to dicot species such as northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), white water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), water marigold (*Bidens beckii*), & coontail following treatment.

[†] May vary by formulation, application rate, and/or product. Every product label must be carefully reviewed and followed by the user.

* Product names are provided solely for your reference and should not be considered exhaustive nor endorsements.

Post-Treatment Water Use Restrictions

There are no drinking water or recreational use restrictions, including swimming and fishing, and no restrictions on irrigating turf. There is a short waiting period (dependent on application rate) for other non-agricultural irrigation purposes. Treated water should not be used for livestock drinking water or for agricultural irrigation†.

Herbicide Degradation, Persistence and Trace Contaminants

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is short-lived, with a half-life (the time it takes for half of the active ingredient to degrade) of four to six days in aerobic aquatic environments and two days in anaerobic aquatic environments.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl in water is subject to rapid breakdown by light (photolysis), with a reported photolytic half-life of approximately two hours in surface water when exposed to sunlight. In addition, the herbicide can convert partially to an acid form via breakdown by water (hydrolysis) at high pH (greater than 9) and higher water temperatures (greater than 25°C). Microbial activity in the water and sediment can also enhance degradation.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl breaks down into five major degradation products. These materials are generally more persistent in water than the active herbicide (with a half-life of up to three weeks), but four of the five products are minor metabolites detected at less than 5% of applied active ingredient.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl has a high soil adsorption coefficient (KOC) and low volatility, which allows for rapid plant uptake resulting in short exposure time requirements.

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl degrades quickly (two to 15 days) in sediment. Few studies have yet been completed for groundwater, but based on known environmental properties, florpyrauxifen-benzyl is not expected to be associated with potential environmental impacts in groundwater.

Impacts on Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

Florpyrauxifen-benzyl is practically nontoxic to freshwater fish and invertebrates, birds, bees, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Florpyrauxifen-benzyl will temporarily bioaccumulate (the process by which chemicals in the environment or in a food source are taken up by plants or animals) in freshwater organisms but is expelled and/or metabolized within one to three days after exposure to high (greater than 150 parts per billion) concentrations.

Human Health

There are no risks of concern to human health since no adverse short- or long-term effects, including a lack of carcinogenicity or mutagenicity, were observed in the submitted toxicological studies for florpyrauxifen-benzyl regardless of the route of exposure. Drinking water exposures to florpyrauxifen-benzyl also do not pose a significant human health risk. Additionally, there is no hazard concern for metabolites and/or degradants of florpyrauxifen-benzyl that may be found in drinking water, plants and livestock.

For Additional Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Office of Pesticide Programs
epa.gov/pesticides

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade,
and Consumer Protection
[datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ACMOv
erview.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ACMOverview.aspx)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
608-266-2621
dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants

National Pesticide Information Center
1-800-858-7378
npic.orst.edu

Washington State Department of Ecology. 2017.
[fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/
1710020.pdf](http://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1710020.pdf)

