

Surface Water Pesticide of Concern

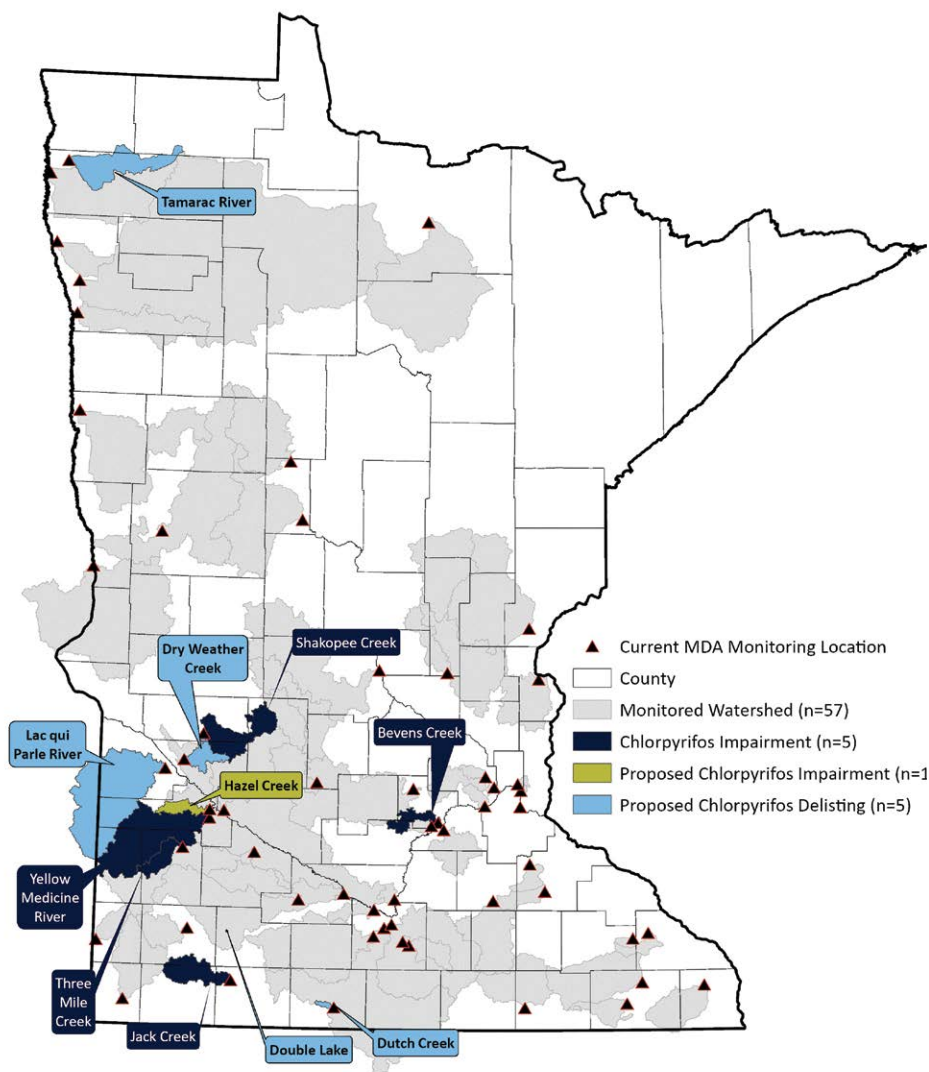
CHLORPYRIFOS - INSECTICIDE

Common products

Warhawk, Pilot 4E, Match-Up, Lambdafos, Drexel (*No discrimination is intended, and no endorsement is implied*).

- Chlorpyrifos was designated as a “Surface Water Pesticide of Concern” by the Commissioner of Agriculture in 2012. A Surface Water Pesticide of Concern status starts the development and promotion of voluntary best management practices and may result in additional monitoring.
- High chlorpyrifos detections in rivers and streams mainly occur in August, coinciding with soybean aphid control applications.
- High chlorpyrifos levels in rivers and streams can harm aquatic organisms and disrupt aquatic ecosystems.
- As of April 2025, 10 waterbodies are listed as impaired for chlorpyrifos due to exceedances of the state’s water quality standards (*see map on the right*).

Watersheds with Chlorpyrifos Impairments



Key Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Chlorpyrifos



Use field scouting and economic thresholds to make insect management decisions. Use multiple pest control tools within an Integrated Pest Management strategy.



Rotate chlorpyrifos with other mode-of-action insecticides year to year and within the season.



Follow label-recommended application rates, including mandatory per acre, per application, per season, and per year limits to minimize insect resistance.



Follow label-mandated droplet size, boom height, and wind speed restrictions to reduce off target movements.

Application Method	Required Setback, feet
Ground boom	25
Orchard air blast	50
Aerial	150

Maintain label application setbacks from permanent water bodies such as rivers, natural ponds, lakes, streams, reservoirs, marshes, estuaries, and commercial fishponds.

(See table above for examples)



Prevent spills and dispose of unused pesticide properly using the MDA's Waste Pesticide Collection Program.

Scan to see the full list of chlorpyrifos BMPs.



For more information, contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at ptu.mda@state.mn.us.