Waitrose Pesticide Residue Testing Report: 2020 to 2025

At Waitrose we undertake an extensive independent pesticide testing program to ensure that our fresh produce meets legislative requirements. This compliments the programs we have with our suppliers and growers worldwide to ensure the rational use of pesticides, Integrated Pest Management and compliance with our pesticide policy.

Our testing program is conducted on the full range of fresh produce from around the world by accredited laboratories. Our laboratories independently take samples from products in our shops for analysis from an agreed annual program. Waitrose has no influence on what particular samples are taken in these tests. For 2024 and 2025 we have included results of our supplier's residue testing data. This has significantly increased the number of test results Waitrose has access to and gives a more holistic view of pesticides residues on our products.

The results of the last six years analysis data is summarised as below;

1. **Number of Tests per Product**
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Definitions:

MRL Maximum Residue Limit, the maximum level of a pesticide residue allowed by law in a product. Based on usage following Good Agricultural Practice.

LOD - Limit of Determination, the lowest level at which a pesticide can be reliably detected.

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1. Number of Tests per Product

Number of Tests per Product Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Allium					8	12
Apple	21	24	25	11	157	152
Apricot	2	1	5	2		
Artichoke	1	2	3		1	1
Aubergine					19	2
Asparagus	4	6	5	4	1	28
Avocado	3	3	6	2	36	44
Baby Beet leaves					6	
Baby Corn	3	1	2		1	2
Baby leaf lettuce					5	2
Baby Leaf Rocket					1	
Baby leaf Spinach					3	10
Banana	10	4	3	1	6	10
Basil						3
Beans	8	10	12	8	2	27
Beetroot	2	1	1		19	27
Blackberry	3	3	5	4	16	7
Blueberries	7	10	11	6	57	43
Brassica					22	15
Broccoli	6	7	4	3	33	33
Brussel Sprouts	1	3	5	3	1	
Butternut squash					19	23
Cabbage	6	4	4	3	5	4
Carrot	6	12	12	6	13	45
Cauliflower	5	3	5	3	4	2
Cavolo	2					
Cavolo Nero		1	2			
Celeriac					1	1
Celery	6	3	4	2	17	30

Number of Tests per Product Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Chard	2	1	2	1	3	
Chestnuts						
Cherries	6	7	7	3	11	13
Cherimoya						
Chicory	3	3	4	3	4	
Chillies				1		
Chinese leaf		1	2		6	7
Clementine	3	2		1		
Citrus					12	27
Coconut						
Coriander						2
Courgettes	5	6	5	5	19	16
Cranberry	1	2	2	2		1
Cucumber	7	4	4	3	12	30
Currants					1	
Dates	2					
Dragon Fruit		1				
Exotic Fruit					15	20
Fennel					8	3
Figs		3	4	2	1	
Garlic	1	2	3		1	2
Ginger						
Gooseberries	1	1	2	1	3	1
Grapefruit						
Grapes	13	12	17	8	34	29
Greengage				1		
Exotic Fruit					2	
Horseradish	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kale	5	5	1	2	2	1
Kiwi fruit	5	5	6	4	9	5

Number of Tests per Product Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Lamb's lettuce					2	
Leaf Greens	1	2	1	1		9
Leeks	6	5	4	3	5	9
Lemon	5	6	4	2	4	6
Lemongrass						1
Lettuce	9	9	8	3	52	120
Lime	4	2	4	2		
Lychees	2	1	1			
Mandarin	2	2			1	1
Mangetout pea	1		3	2		
Mango	5	7	6	1	20	64
Mangosteen						
Melon	1	2	4	1	14	15
Mint						4
Mushrooms	10	9	14	10	19	9
Nectarine	5	3	8	3	5	4
Okra			1	1		
Onion	12	12	10	4	4	
Orange	4	9	8	6		
Pak Choi	2	2	2	1	4	3
Papaya	1	1			1	
Parsley						4
Parsnip	4	5	6	6	10	16
Passionfruit	2	1	3	1	1	
Peach	1	4	3	4	5	3
Pears	12	12	11	7	86	25
Peas	2	3	1		4	18
Peppers	14	5	5	5	16	51
Persimmon	1	1	1	1		
Physalis				1		

Number of Tests per Product Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pineapple	2	1	2	2	11	13
Plum	6	8	6	5	4	10
Plums	1					
Pomegranate	2				9	36
Potato	26	22	23	13	11	10
Pumpkin					16	2
Radish	3	3	2	4	62	81
Raspberries	8	9	7	3	27	20
Rocket Lettuce					1	
Redcurrants		2		1		
Rhubarb	1	2	2	1		1
Romanesco		1	1		1	
Rosemary						2
Root Vegetables					17	10
Exotic Vegetables					33	30
Salad cress			1			
Satsuma	5	3	8	2		
Shallots	1		1			
Sharon Fruit			1			
Spinach	4	4	4	2		2
Spring Onions					41	49
Squash	5	1	4	1	3	3
Strawberries	7	10	7	5	23	30
Soft Fruit					20	27
Stone Fruit					12	16
Sugar Snap Peas	1	4	2	3		
Swede				1		
Sweetcorn	4	7	4	3	22	17
Sweet potato					7	18
Swiss Chard	1					

Number of Tests per Product Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tangerine	2	3	4	4		
Tat Soi	1	2	1	1		
Tomatoes	15	17	18	13	23	32
Top Fruit					11	17
Thyme						3
Turmeric		1	1		1	2
Turnip		3		1	1	1
Watercress					14	
Watermelon		2	1			17
Grand Total	**352**	**362**	**382**	**226**	**1220**	**1492**

2. Tests by Country of Origin

Country of origin	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Argentina	2	3	4	2	10	8
Belgium	4	2	3	3	13	8
Brazil	5	6	13	5	30	39
Burkina-Faso		1				
Chile	6	13	8	2	27	38
China			1			3
Colombia	1	1	1	3	3	5
Costa Rica	2	2	2	2	12	14
Cyprus	1		2			
Dominican Rep.	3	2	2	1	3	5
Ecuador					1	3
Egypt	7	7	6	8	27	42
Ethiopia	1					
France	4	5	5	3	22	17
Gambia	1				1	2
Germany		1			2	6
Ghana	4					
Greece	5	3	3		6	6
Guatemala		1	1			3
Honduras			2		3	4
Hungary	1	1	1	1	1	1
India	1	1	4		1	4
Indonesia			1			
Ireland					1	
Israel	3	2	3		14	12
Italy	14	13	10	11	74	78
Ivory Coast					3	16
Jersey		1	2			
Jordan	1	1			2	2
Kenya	2	4	6	6	9	41

Country of origin	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Macao						1
Mali						1
Mexico	2	3		2	7	4
Morocco	10	10	9	12	37	78
Mozambique						2
Namibia		1				1
Netherlands	13	11	10	6	31	74
New Zealand	4	5	3		3	3
Panama	1		1			4
Peru	12	11	14	9	52	48
Poland					10	10
Portugal	3	2	5	2	32	23
Saint Lucia	1	1				
Saudi Arabia						1
Senegal	4	4	4	3	15	18
Solomon Islands						1
South Africa	26	30	40	19	236	204
Spain	66	62	65	43	186	295
St Lucia			1			
Thailand		1			1	1
Turkey		1	2	1	2	1
UK	134	144	140	78	328	343
USA	2	3	4	3	3	8
Vietnam	2	3	2	1	1	1
Zambia			1			1
Zimbabwe	1		1		5	4
Unspecified	3				6	8
Grand Total	**352**	**362**	**382**	**226**	**1220**	**1492**

3. Residue Statistics - Summary

All countries	2020	2020 (%)	2021	2021 (%)	2022	2022 (%)	2023	2023 (%)	2024	2024 (%)	2025	2025 (%)
Number of samples	352	N/A	362	N/A	382	N/A	226	N/A	1,220	N/A	1492	N/A
Samples with zero residues	161	46%	185	51%	188	49%	106	47%	558	45%	714	48%
Samples with 1 residue below MRL	0	0	57	16%	81	21%	50	22%	246	20%	282	19%
Samples with multiple resides below MRL	190	54%	120	33%	111	29%	67	30%	411	37%	483	32%
Samples with at least 1 MRL exceedance	1	<1%	0	0%	2	1%	3	1%	4	<1%	12	<1%
Number of detections	426	N/A	220	N/A	357	N/A	241	N/A	1,617	N/A	1,962	N/A
Average detections per sample	1.2	N/A	0.6	N/A	0.9	N/A	1.0	N/A	1.3	N/A	1.3	N/A

4. Residue Statistics - Split by Region

United Kingdom	2020	2020 (%)	2021	2021 (%)	2022	2022 (%)	2023	2023 (%)	2024	2024 (%)	2025	2025 (%)
Number of samples	134	N/A	144	N/A	140	N/A	78	N/A	328	N/A	343	N/A
Samples with zero residues	76	57%	88	61%	86	61%	45	58%	193	59%	198	58%
Samples with 1 residue below MRL	-	-	25	17%	32	23%	19	24%	43	13%	49	20%
Samples with multiple resides below MRL	57	43%	31	22%	56	40%	13	17%	91	28%	89	25%
Samples with at least 1 MRL exceedance	1	<1%	-	-	1	<1%	1	1%	1	<1%	6	<2%
Number of detections	58	N/A	56	N/A	89	N/A	33	N/A	387	N/A	422	N/A
Average detections per sample	0.4	N/A	0.3	N/A	0.6	N/A	0.4	N/A	1.2	N/A	1.2	N/A

Europe	2020	2020 (%)	2021	2021 (%)	2022	2022 (%)	2023	2023 (%)	2024	2024 (%)	2025	2025 (%)
Number of samples	109	N/A	99	N/A	100	N/A	68	N/A	380	N/A	489	N/A
Samples with zero residues	41	38%	43	43%	45	45%	33	48%	204	54%	262	54%
Samples with 1 residue below MRL	-	-	14	14%	20	20%	14	21%	64	17%	77	16%
Samples with multiple resides below MRL	68	62%	42	42%	35	35%	21	31%	109	29%	150	30%
Samples with at least 1 MRL exceedance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	<1%	-	-
Number of detections	68	N/A	56	N/A	55	N/A	68	N/A	446	N/A	600	N/A
Average detections per sample	0.6	N/A	0.5	N/A	0.6	N/A	1	N/A	1.2	N/A	1.2	N/A

Rest of World	2020	2020 (%)	2021	2021 (%)	2022	2022 (%)	2023	2023 (%)	2024	2024 (%)	2025	2025 (%)
Number of samples	109	N/A	119	N/A	142	N/A	80	N/A	512	N/A	658	N/A
Samples with zero residues	44	40%	54	45%	60	42%	28	35%	161	31%	253	38%
Samples with 1 residue below MRL	-	-	18	15%	29	20%	17	21%	139	27%	155	24%
Samples with multiple resides below MRL	65	60%	47	40%	52	37%	33	41%	211	41%	244	37%
Samples with at least 1 MRL exceedance	-	-	-	-	1	<1%	2	3%	1	<1%	6	<1%
Number of detections	65	N/A	65	N/A	82	N/A	78	N/A	784	N/A	940	N/A
Average detections per sample	0.5	N/A	0.5	N/A	0.5	N/A	1	N/A	1.5	N/A	1.4	N/A

5. Residue Statistics - Split by Product

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Allium																					7		1		8	6	2	3		11
Apple	4		17		21	4	7	13		24	1	8	16		25	3	2	6		11	27	50	79		157	30	40	82		152
Apricot	1		1		2	1				1		2	3		5	1		1		2									
Artichoke	1				1	1		1		2	3				3						1				1	1				1
Aubergine																					1				1	2				2
Asparagus	4				4	6				6	4		1		5	4				4	19				19	27	1			28
Avocado	1		2		3		2	1		3	4	1	1		6	1		1		2	28	6	2		36	32	7	5		44
Baby Beet																							1		1					
Baby Corn	3				3	1				1	2				2						1				1	2				2
Baby lettuce																					3		2		5	4		6		10
Baby Rocket																							1		1					
Baby spinach																					2	1			3					
Banana	3		7		10	2		2		4	1		2		3			1		1	2		4		6	3	2	5		10
Beans	3		3		6	5	2	3		10	9	1	2		12	5		3		8	3	2	1		6	22	1	3		26
Beetroot	2				2	1				1	1				1						17	1	1		19	26		1		27
Blackberry			3		3	2		1		3	1	1	3		5	3		1		4						2	2	2		6
Blueberries	3		4		7	6	2	2		10	3	4	4		11	3	2	1		6	18	5	32		55	12	7	22		41
Brassica																					13	2	3		20	7	2	3	3	15
Broccoli	2		4		6	6		1		7	3		1		4	2	1			3	24	8	1		33	21	5	4		30
Brussel Sp'ts			1		1	2		1		3	2	2	1		5	1	1	1		3										
Cabbage	5		1		6	3		1		4	4				4	3				3				1	1					

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Cabbage																					7		4		11	4				4
Carrot	4		2		6	7	3	2		12	10	1	1		12	3	2	1		6	11	1	1		13	32	7	6		45
Cauliflower	2		3		5	2	1			3	5				5	3				3	4				4					
Cavolo			2		2																									
Cavolo Nero						1				1		1	1		2									1	1					
Celeriac																							1		1			1		1
Celery	3		3		6	1		2		3	2	2			4	2				2	7	3	7		17	16	8	6		30
Chard	1		1		2			1		1	1		1		2	1				1	1		2		3					
Cherries			6		6	1	2	4		7		2	5		7		2	1		3		3	8		11	1		11		12
Chicory	1		2		3	3				3	1	3			4	2		1		3	3		1		4					
Chillies																	1			1										
Chinese leaf						1				1	2				2											7				7
Clementine			3		3			2		2								1		1										
Citrus																					2		9	1	12	1	1	23	2	27
Courgettes	2		3		5	4	1	1		6	5				5	4	1			5	10	2	3		15	10	4	2		16
Cranberry	1				1	2				2	1	1			2	1	1			2						1				1
Cucumber	3		4		7	2	1	1		4	2	2			4	1	1	1		3	9	3			12	17	6	7		30
Currants																							1		1					
Dates	2				2																									
Dragon Fruit						1				1																				
Exotic Fruit																					11	4				7	7	11		25
Easy Peelers			3		3	1		2		3	1		6		7			1		1										

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Fennel																					3	3	2		8	3				3
Figs						3				3	4				4	2				2	1				1				
Garlic	1				1		1	1		2	3				3							1			1	2				2
Gooseberries			1		1			1		1			2		2			1		1			3		3			1		1
Grapes	2		11		13	2	2	8		12	6	2	9		17	2	1	5		8	1	11	22		34		5	24		29
Green Beans	1		1		2																									
Greengage																	1			1										
Horseradish	1				1	1				1	1				1	1				1	1				1	1				1
Kale	2		2		4	3		2		5			1		1			1	1	2	1		1	1	3	1				1
Kalettes			1		1																									
Kiwi fruit	4		1		5	3	1	1		5	6				6	3	1			4	2	7			9	1	2	2		5
Lambs lettuce																					1		1		2		3	4	2	9
Leaf Greens			1		1		1	1		2			1		1	1				1	4		1		5	3	1	14	2	20
Leeks	4		2		6	4		1		5	4				4	2	1			3	5				5	9				9
Lemon	1		4		5	2		4		6		1	3		4			2		2			4		4			6		6
lemongrass																														
Lettuce	6		3		9	5	1	3		9	5	2	1		8	3				3	28	8	16		52	50	21	49		120
Lime			4		4	1	1			2	2		2		4	1			1	2										
Lychees	2				2	1				1	1				1															
Mandarin			2		2			2		2													1		1			1		1
M'tout pea			1		1						1	1	1		3			2		2										
Mango	1		4		5	4	2	1		7	1	4	1		6		1			1						41	13	10		64

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Melon			1		1		1	1		2		2	2		4		1			1	2	6	6		14	3	6	6		15
Mushrooms	9		1		10	7	1	1		9	9	3	1	1	14	6	4			10	12	6	1		19	6	3			9
Nectarine			5		5	1	1	1		3	2	4	2		8		3			3	1		4		5			4		4
Okra											1				1	1				1										
Onion	11		1		12	11	1			12	10				10	4				4	30	3	11		44					
Orange	1		3		4	2		7		9		1	7		8	2	1	3		6										
Pak Choi	1			1	2	1		1		2	2				2	1				1	3	0	1		4	2	1			3
Papaya	1				1	1				1											1				1					
Parsnip	4				4	5				5	2	3	1		6	4	1	1		6	8	1	1		10	5	5	6		16
Passionfruit	2				2		1			1	1	1	1		3			1		1										
Peach	1				1	1		3		4	1		2		3			4		4								3		3
Pears	2		10		12	3	2	7		12	1	2	8		11	2	1	4		7	4	17	65		86	4	5	16		25
Peas	2				2	1	1	1		3	1				1											9	3	3	1	16
Peppers	10		4		14	3	1	1		5	4		1		5	3	1	1		5	8	4	4		16	31	5	15		51
Persimmon	1				1	1				1	1				1	1				1										
Physalis																		1		1										
Pineapple			2		2		1			1		2			2		2			2	1	8	2		11	1	10	2		13
Plum	2		4		6	1	1	6		8	2	2	2		6	1		4		5							4	6		10
Plums			1		1																1	2	1		4					
Pomegranate			2		2																4	3	2		9	12	12	12		36
Potato	16		10		26	15	6	1		22	12	11			23	6	7			13	6	6			12	6	4			10
Pumpkin																					11	2	3		16	2				2

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Radish	2		1		3	1	1	1		3	1	1			2	1	3			4	0	1	1		2	58	20	3		81
Raspberries	3		5		8	5	2	2		9	5	1	1		7	1	1	1		3	10	5	12		27	14	1	5		20
Redcurrants								2		2								1		1										
Rhubarb	1				1	2				2	2				2	1				1						1			1	1
Romanesco						1				1	1				1															
Root Veg																					13	4	3		20	4	3	2	1	10
Exotic Veg																					32	11	5		48	23	5	2		30
Salad cress												1			1															
Satsuma			2		2								1		1			1		1										
Shallots	1				1						1				1															
Sharon Fruit											1				1															
Spinach			4		4	1		3		4	1	1	2		4	2				2										
Spring Onions																					26	3	11		40	34	3	11		48
Squash	5				5	1				1	3	1			4	1				1	2	2			4	23	2	1		26
Strawberries			7		7	2	1	7		10	2	3	2		7	1	1	3		5	3	1	19		23	3	1	25		29
Soft Fruit																					6	3	10		20	6	9	11		27
Stone Fruit	1				1	3	1			4	1			1	2		1	1	1	3	3	3	6		12	1	4	9	1	16
S' Snap Peas																						1			1					
Swede																1				1		1			1					
Sweetcorn	3		1		4	6		1		7	4				4	3				3						17				17
Sweet potato																					1	5			6	7	10	1		18
Swiss Chard			1		1																									

	2020				2020 Total	2021				2021 Total	2022				2022 Total	2023				2023 Total	2024				2024 Total	2025				2025 Total
Product Description	Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance		Not Detected	Single Residue	Multiple Residues	MRL Exceedance	
Tangerine			2		2			3		3			4		4			4		4									
Tat Soi	1				1	1	1			2	1				1	1				1	2				2					
Tomatoes	5		10		15	11	1	5		17	12	1	5		18	4	4	5		13	3	3	2		8	15	9	8		23
Top Fruit																					6	3	2		11	3	2	11		17
Turmeric						1				1	1				1															
Turnip							3			3						1				1	1				1	1				1
Vegetables																										7	1		1	10
Watercress																														
Watermelon						2				2	1				1						5	2	7		14	7	3	7		17
Other																										3				3
Grand Total	161	0	190	1	352	185	57	120	0	362	188	81	111	2	382	106	50	67	3	226	558	246	411	4	1220	714	282	483	13	1492

Note: In 2024 a new laboratory was used and some category names of products were changed

6. Exceedance Details

From 2020 to 2025 a total of 18 pesticide residues were found to be above the MRL, which equates to 0.48% of all tests

2020 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
September 2020	Pak Choi	United Kingdom	Cyantra-niliprole	0.019	0.01

2021 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
NONE					

2022 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
April 2022	Sugar snaps	Guatemala	Chlorotha-lonil	0.25	0.01
October 2022	Mushrooms	United Kingdom	Fluazinam	0.03	0.01

2023 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
January 2023	Kale	United Kingdom	Propyzamide	0.02	0.01
September 2023	Sugar snaps	Peru	Fipronil	0.08	0.005
September 2023	Limes	Brazil	Chlorfenapyr	0.02	0.01

* Not including residues from cleaning or water treatment chemicals

2024 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
March 2024	Cabbage	United Kingdom	Metalaxyl	0.21	0.06
January 2024	Cavolo Nero	Spain	Propyzamide	0.02	0.01
February 2024	Kale	Spain	Propyzamide	0.04	0.01
July 2024	Lime	Brazil	Chlorpyrifos	0.04	0.01

2025 Exceedance details

Date sample	**Crop or Crop Group**	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Level found** mg/kg	**MRL** mg/kg
March 2025	Cabbage	United Kingdom	Desthio-prothioconazole	0.474	0.09
April 2025	Nectarines	Egypt	Thiabendazole	0.011	0.01
April 2025	Round Beans	Egypt	Propargite	0.066	0.01
May 2025	Sugar Snaps	United States	Fosetyl-Al Phosphonic acid	121 90.1	2 1.5
June 2025	Thyme	Kenya	Dithiocarbamates	30.4	5
June 2025	Spinach	United Kingdom	Lenacil	0.849	0.1
August 2025	Spinach	United Kingdom	Lenacil	0.262	0.1
September 2025	Blush Orange	South Africa	Imazalil	4.32	4
October 2025	Lemons	South Africa	Metalaxyl	0.016	0.01
October 2025	Spinach	United Kingdom	Acetamiprid	0.013	0.01
November 2025	Parsnips	United Kingdom	Fosetyl-Al	2.88	2
November 2025	Kale	United Kingdom	Fenvalerate	0.032	0.02

* Not including residues from cleaning or water treatment chemicals

7. Summary of Pesticides Detected at over 50% of the MRL

From 2021 to 2025 a total of 50 pesticide residues were found to be above 50% of the MRL, which equates to 1.3% of all tests

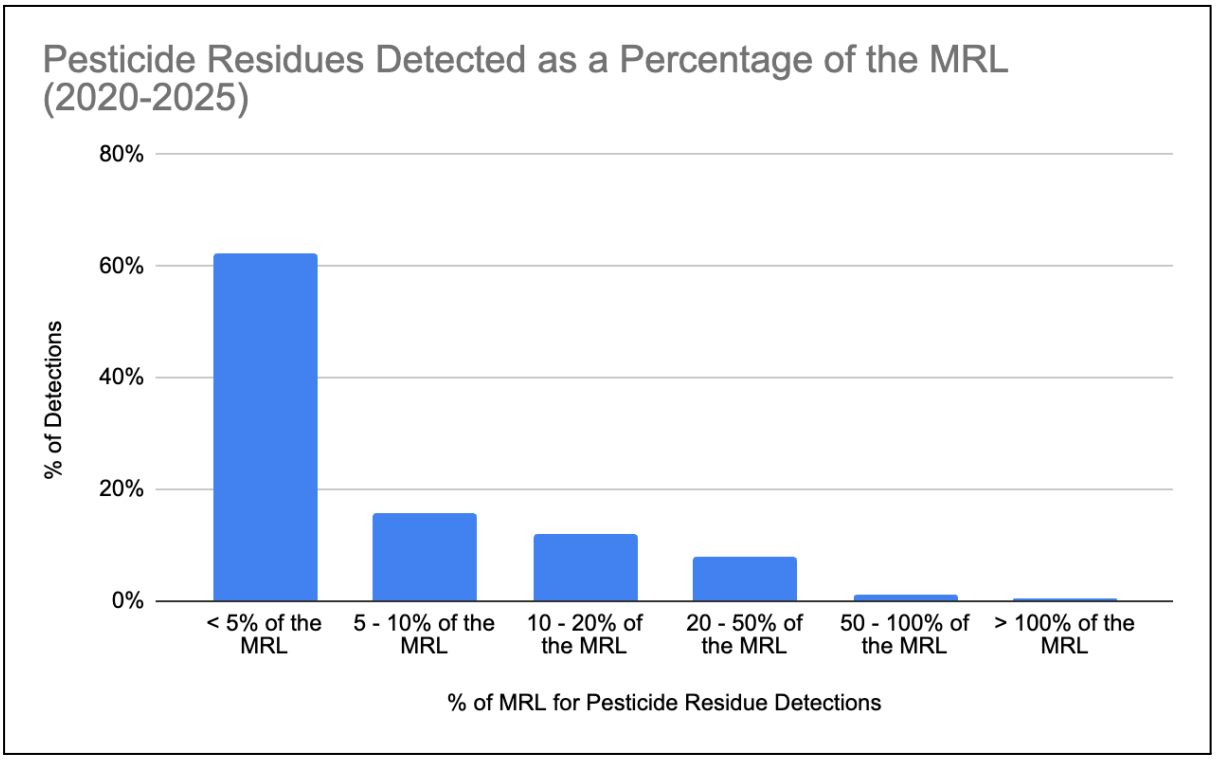
SAMPLE DATE	CROP	COO	RESIDUE	RESULT mg/kg	MRL mg/kg	% of MRL	MRL set at LOD
May 2021	Grapes	Chile	Phosmet	0.04	0.05	80%	No
May 2021	Beans	Italy	Dithio-carbamates	0.07	0.1	70%	No
September 2021	Oranges	South Africa	Imazalil	2.14	4	53%	No
January 2022	Tangerine	Turkey	Etoxazole	0.05	0.1	50%	No
May 2022	Grapes	Brazil	Etofenprox	3.56	4	89%	No
May 2022	Satsuma	South Africa	Imazalil	3.37	5	67%	No
August 2022	Orange	South Africa	Imazalil	2.34	4	58%	No
October 2022	Grapes	Brazil	Azoxystrobin	1.59	3	53%	No
November 2022	Cavolo Nero	UK	Triallate	0.06	0.1	60%	No
November 2022	Easy Peeler	South Africa	Imazalil	3.69	5	74%	No
December 2022	Orange	South Africa	Imazalil	2.86	4	71%	No
July 2023	Satsuma	South Africa	Imazalil	2.69	5	54%	No
October 2023	Orange	South Africa	Imazalil	3.30	4	82%	No

January 2024	Blueberry	Chile	Fludioxonil	2.88	5.0	58%	No
January 2024	Blueberry	Chile	terbuthylazine	0.049	0.05	98%	No
February 2024	Apples	South Africa	Acetamiprid	0.25	0.4	62.5%	No
April 2024	Pomegranates	South Africa	Fludioxonil	1.7	3.0	56.67%	No
August 2024	Pumpkins	UK	Aldrin and Dieldrin	0.028	0.03	93%	Yes
September 2024	Pumpkins	UK	Aldrin and Dieldrin	0.02	0.03	70%	Yes
September 2024	Lemons	South Africa	Imazalil	2.68	5.0	54%	No
December 2024	Grapes	Peru	Ethephon	0.54	1.0	54%	No
December 2024	Lemons	Spain	Imazalil	3.00	5.0	60%	No
December 2024	Strawberry	Spain	Spirotetramat	0.22	0.4	55%	No
January 2025	Lemons	Spain	Imazalil	2.7	5	54%	No
February 2025	Lemons	Spain	Imazalil	3.3	5	66%	No
February 2025	Citrus	Spain	Imazalil	3.89	5	78%	No
February 2025	Citrus	Israel	Imazalil	2.02	4	51%	No
February 2025	Herbs	Kenya	Pirimicarb	0.765	0.8	96%	No
March 2025	Pomegranates	South Africa	Fludioxonil	2	3	67%	No
April 2025	Allium	United Kingdom	Maleic hydrazide	7.78	15	52%	No

May 2025	Mushrooms	United Kingdom	Metrafenone	0.32	0.5	64%	No
June 2025	Citrus	Brazil	Imazalil	2.86	5	57%	No
June 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Imazalil	2.93	5	59%	No
June 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Imazalil	2.93	5	59%	No
June 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Pyrimethanil	4.22	5	53%	No
June 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Pyrimethanil	4.22	5	53%	No
July 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Imazalil	3.27	5	65%	No
July 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Imazalil	2.63	4	66%	No
August 2025	Citrus	South Africa	Pyrimethanil	6.27	8	78%	No
August 2025	Stone Fruit	United Kingdom	Fosetyl-Al	1.28	2	64%	No
August 2025	Top Fruit	Netherlands	Captan	5.55	10	56%	No
August 2025	Herbs	Kenya	Lambda Cyhalothrin	0.363	0.7	52%	No
September 2025	Pomegranates	Portugal	Fosetyl-Al Sum	1.2	2	60%	No
September 2025	Herbs	Kenya	Acetamiprid	2.21	3	74%	No
September 2025	Herbs	Kenya	Dithiocarbamates	3.59	5	72%	No
September 2025	Herbs	Kenya	Lambda Cyhalothrin	0.43	0.7	62%	No
October 2025	Blueberries (frozen)	Not Specified	Acetamiprid	0.458	0.7	66%	No

December 2025	Allium	Spain	Fluopyram	0.035	0.07	50%	Yes
December 2025	Brassica	Spain	Metalaxyl	0.032	0.06	53%	Yes
December 2025	Citrus	Morocco	Pyrimethanil	5.35	8	67%	No

8. Pesticide Residues Detected as a Percentage of the MRL



Over the 6 years from 2020 to 2025 the level of pesticide residues detected as a percentage of the MRL were remarkably consistent.

- It should be noted that nearly half of all tests show no pesticide residues at all.

However where a pesticide residue was detected;

- The vast majority of residues detected (62%) were at less than 5% of the MRL.
- 16% were found between 5 and 10% of the MRL.
- 12% were found at 10 to 20.
- 8% were found between 20 and 50%.

As illustrated in the sections above,

- Only 1.3% of all tests found over 50% of the MRL.
- Approximately 0.5% of all tests were found above the MRL.

9. Pesticide Active Ingredients Detected

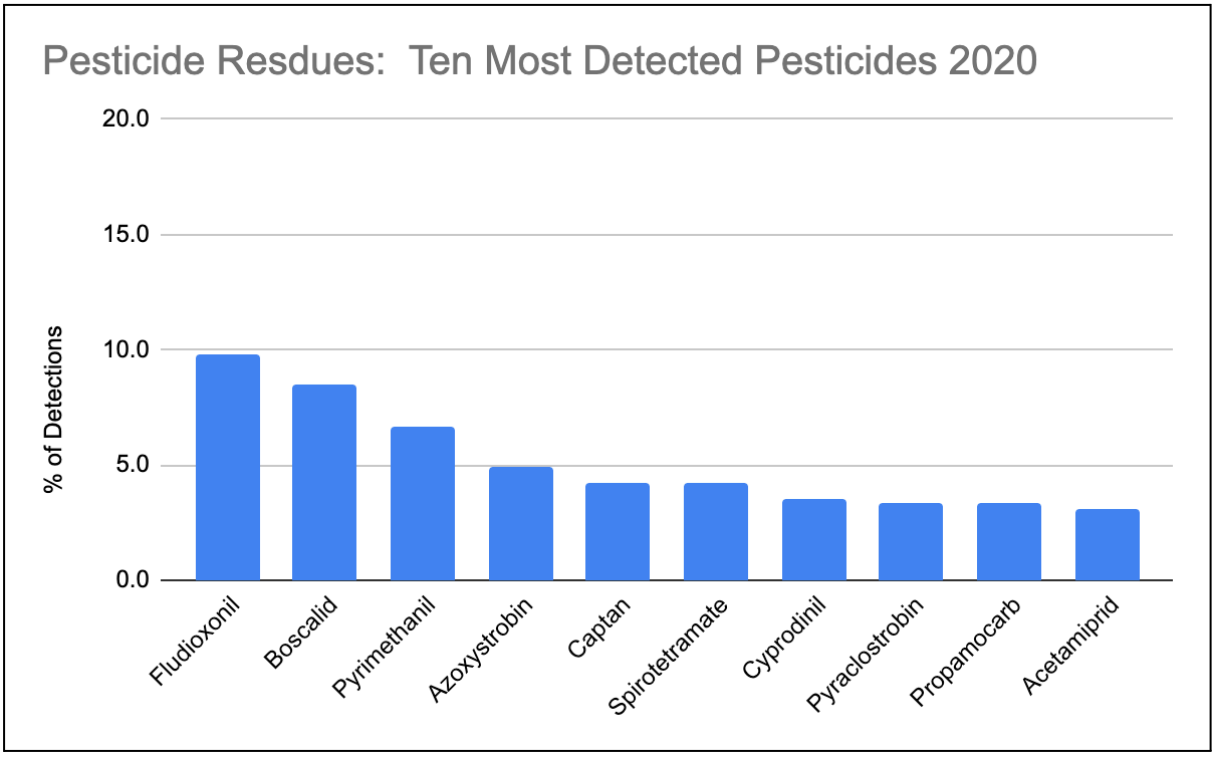
Active	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
1-Naphthylacetamide	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0%		0.0%
1-Naphthylacetic	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0%		0.0%
1,2,3,6-Tetrahydrophthalimide									8	0.8%	26	1.6%
2-Phenylphenol										0.0%	6	0.4%
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol									7	0.7%		0.0%
Acetamiprid	14	3.1	5	2.6	13	3.8	11	5.4	113	11.8%	30	1.8%
Aclonifen										0.0%	3	0.2%
Ametoctradin	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.4%	9	0.5%
Azadirachtine										0.0%	1	0.1%
Azoxystrobin	22	4.9	8	4.1	25	7.3	18	8.8	44	4.6%	125	7.5%
Benzalkonium	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0%		0.0%
Bifenazate									3	0.3%	2	0.1%
Bifenthrin									1	0.1%	2	0.1%
Boscalid	38	8.5	27	13.8	34	9.9	17	8.3	65	6.8%	91	5.4%
Bupirimate									2	0.2%	5	0.3%
Captan	19	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.8%	57	3.4%
Captan/THPI	4	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0%		0.0%
Carbendazim	1	0.2	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Chlorate									1	0.1%		0.0%
Chlormaquat									2	0.2%		0.0%
Clofentezine									2	0.2%		0.0%
Clethodim sulfoxide										0.0%	1	0.1%
Benomyl	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Chlorantraniliprole	2	0.4	6	3.1	6	1.8	1	0.5	95	9.9%	104	6.2%
Clofentezine										0.0%	1	0.1%
Chlorothalonil	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Chlorpropham	7	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Chlorpyrifos	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Chloridazon										0.0%	2	0.1%
Clothianidin	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	1	0.1%
Cyantraniliprole	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	1.5%	22	1.3%
Cyazofamid	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.0		0.0%	2	0.1%
Cyflufenamid										0.0%	2	0.1%

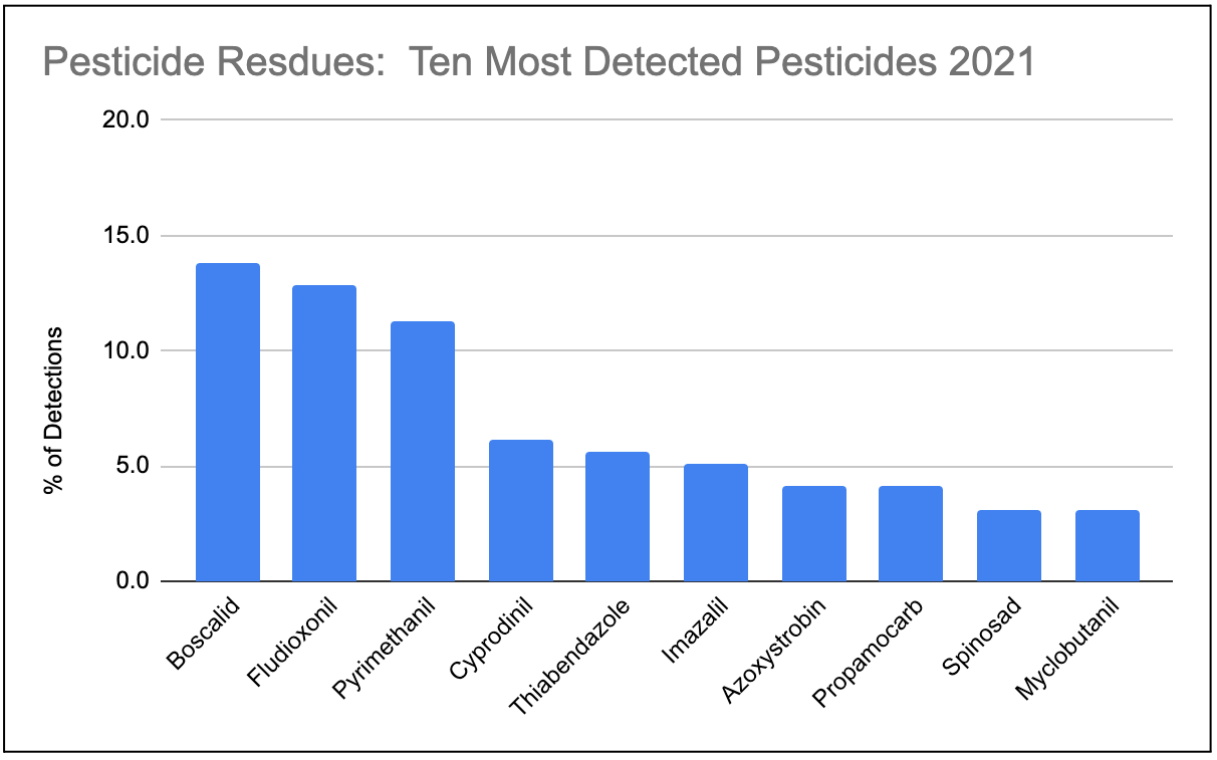
Active	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Cyflumetofen										0.0%	1	0.1%
Cyhalothrin	4	0.9	4	2.1	4	1.2	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Cypermethrin	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.4%	5	0.3%
Cyprodinil	16	3.6	12	6.2	12	3.5	7	3.4	39	4.1%	59	3.5%
DDAC	2	0.4	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	1	0.1%
Deltamethrin	2	0.4	0	0.0	5	1.5	2	1.0	6	0.6%		0.0%
Dialkyldimethylammonium	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Diazinon										0.0%	1	0.1%
Difenoconazole	10	2.2	5	2.6	7	2.0	7	3.4		0.0%	57	3.4%
Dimethomorph	4	0.9	1	0.5	3	0.9	2	1.0	7	0.7%	15	0.9%
Dithiocarbamates	13	2.9	3	1.5	4	1.2	2	1.0	9	0.9%	27	1.6%
Dodine	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2%	4	0.2%
Ethephon										0.0%	7	0.4%
Ethirimol									2	0.2%	2	0.1%
Emamectin									1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Etofenprox	3	0.7	0	0.0	6	1.8	2	1.0		0.0%	4	0.2%
Fenamiphos										0.0%	1	0.1%
Fenazaquin										0.0%	1	0.1%
Fenbuconazole									2	0.2%	1	0.1%
Fenhexamid	5	1.1	2	1.0	2	0.6	3	1.5	28	2.9%	33	2.0%
Fenpyroximate									3	0.3%	3	0.2%
Fenpyrazamine	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	1	0.1%
Fenvalerate										0.0%	1	0.1%
Fipronil	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5		0.0%		0.0%
Flonicamid	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	15	1.6%	16	1.0%
Flubendiamide										0.0%	2	0.1%
Fluazinam										0.0%	2	0.1%
Fludioxonil	44	9.8	25	12.8	61	17.8	31	15.2	197	20.5%	228	13.6%
Fluopicolid	4	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	1.1%	26	1.6%
Fluopyram	12	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	2.9	17	1.8%	41	2.5%
fluvalinate									1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Flupyradifurone	4	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	8	0.5%
Flutriafol	3	0.7	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.5		0.0%	3	0.2%
Fluxapyroxad	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.0	7	0.7%	21	1.3%
Fosetyl-AL									2	0.2%	23	1.4%

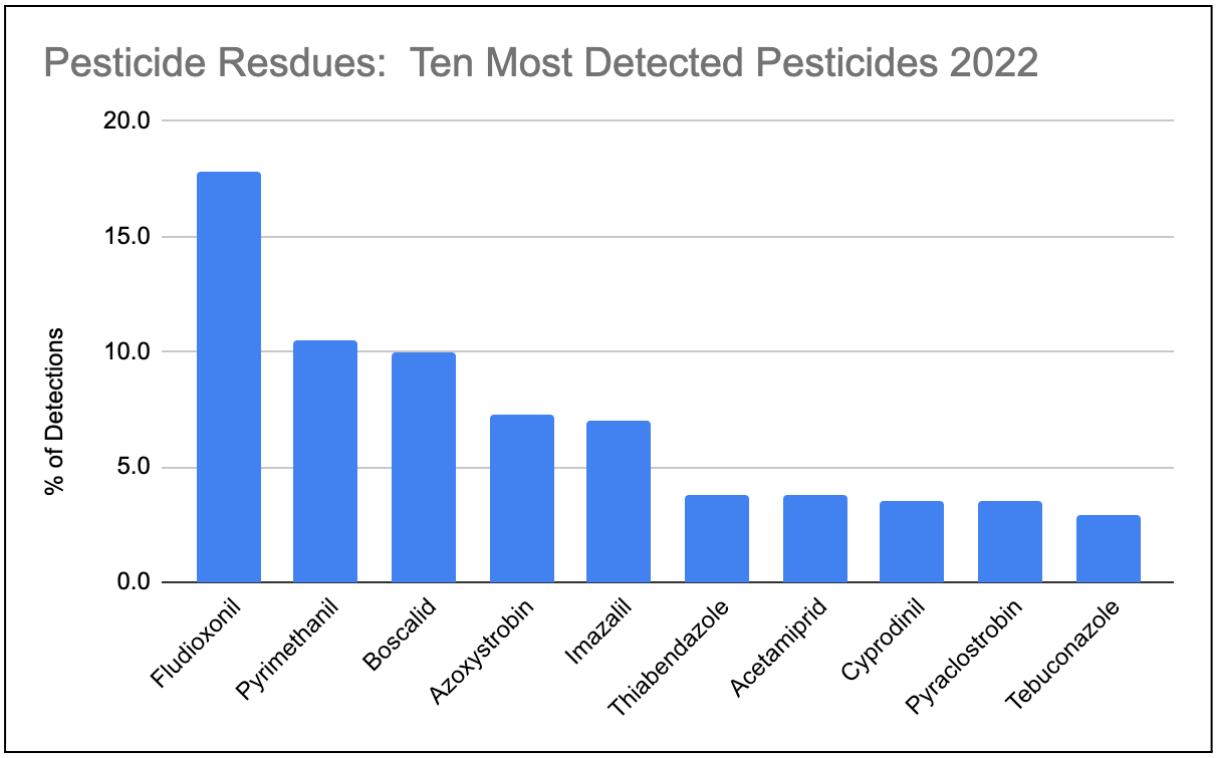
Active	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Hexythiazox									2	0.2%	2	0.1%
Imazalil	14	3.1	10	5.1	24	7.0	7	3.4	13	1.4%	38	2.3%
Imidacloprid	5	1.1	1	0.5	3	0.9	0	0.0	5	0.5%	3	0.2%
Indoxacarb	6	1.3	2	1.0	5	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Isopyrazam	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Kresoxim-Methyl									3	0.3%	5	0.3%
Lambda Cyhalothrin									11	1.1%	18	1.1%
Lenacil										0.0%	3	0.2%
Malathion	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	1.0		0.0%	1	0.1%
Maleic	2	0.4	1	0.5	6	1.8	2	1.0		0.0%	3	0.2%
Mandipropamid	1	0.2	1	0.5	2	0.6	0	0.0	7	0.7%	44	2.6%
Mefentrifluconazole										0.0%	2	0.1%
Mepanipyrim	1	0.2	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.3%		0.0%
Mepiquat Sum									1	0.1%		0.0%
Metalaxyl	3	0.7	2	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	9	0.5%
Metalaxyl/Metalaxyl-M	3	0.7	2	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	8	0.5%
Methoxyfenozide	2	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0		0.0%	5	0.3%
Metrafenone	1	0.2	2	1.0	3	0.9	4	2.0	2	0.2%	6	0.4%
Myclobutanil	5	1.1	6	3.1	2	0.6	1	0.5	6	0.6%		0.0%
Oxathiapiprolin										0.0%	3	0.2%
Penconazole									2	0.2%	1	0.1%
Pendimethalin	1	0.2	2	1.0	4	1.2	2	1.0	13	1.4%	8	0.5%
Phenmedipham										0.0%	1	0.1%
Phosphonic acid										0.0%	18	1.1%
Penthiopyrad	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Perchlorate									1	0.1%		0.0%
Phosmet	2	0.4	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Phthalimide									1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Piperonyl butoxide										0.0%	2	0.1%
Pirimicarb	0	0.0	2	1.0	2	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.1%	10	0.6%
Prochloraz	4	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.6	3	1.5	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Propamocarb	15	3.3	8	4.1	8	2.3	6	2.9	22	2.3%	87	5.2%
Propargite										0.0%	1	0.1%
Propyzamide									13	1.4%	1	0.1%
Proquinazid									4	0.4%	2	0.1%
Propiconazole	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	1	0.1%

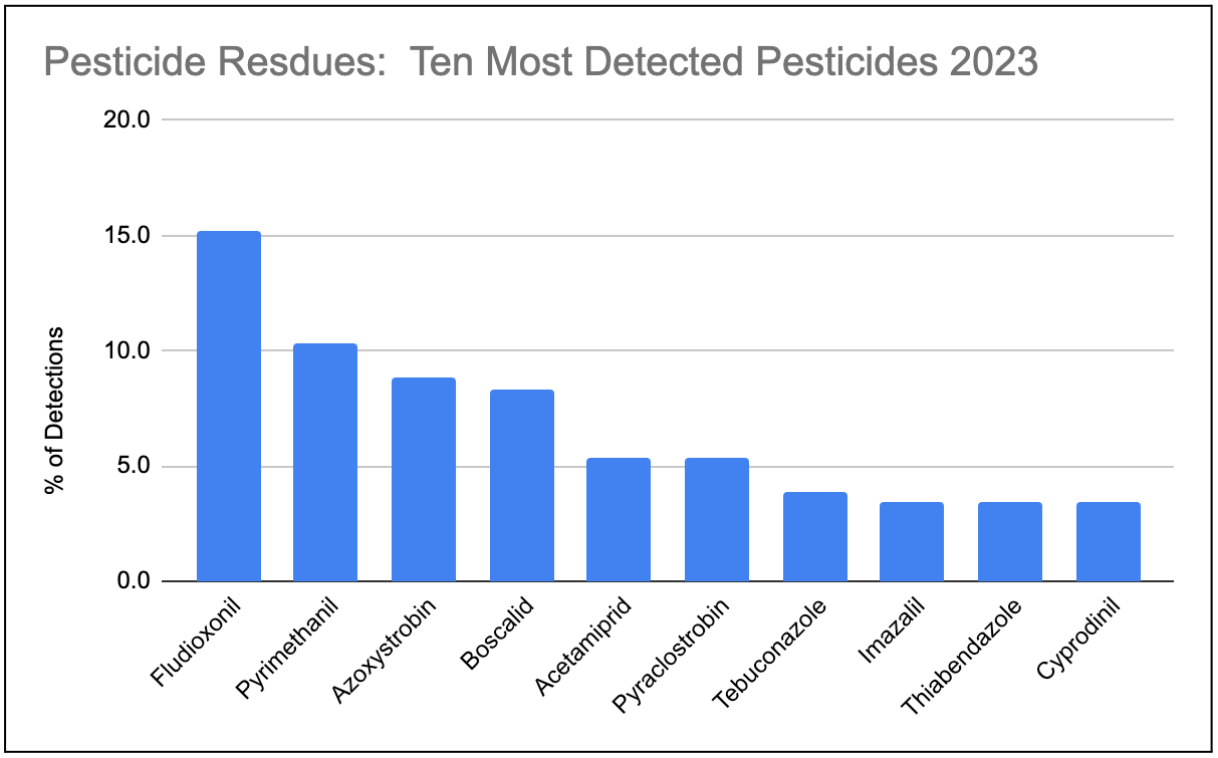
Active	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Prosulfocarb									4	0.4%	5	0.3%
Prothioconazole-desthio	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5		0.0%	3	0.2%
Pyrethrin										0.0%	3	0.2%
Pyridaben									2	0.2%		0.0%
Pyridate									1	0.1%		0.0%
Pyraclostrobin	15	3.3	5	2.6	12	3.5	11	5.4	24	2.5%	16	1.0%
Pyrimethanil	30	6.7	22	11.3	36	10.5	21	10.3	34	3.5%	71	4.2%
Pyriproxyfen	5	1.1	2	1.0	5	1.5	3	1.5		0.0%	16	1.0%
Spinetoram									2	0.2%	4	0.2%
Spinosad	14	3.1	6	3.1	7	2.0	0	0.0	9	0.9%	34	2.0%
Spinosyn										0.0%	13	0.8%
Spirodiclofen										0.0%	1	0.1%
Spiromesifen	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	1.0		0.0%	4	0.2%
Spirotetramate	19	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	1.9%	42	2.5%
Spiroxamine										0.0%	1	0.1%
Sulfoxaflor	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.0	10	1.0%	17	1.0%
Tau-Fluvalinate									1	0.1%		
Tebuconazole	6	1.3	3	1.5	10	2.9	8	3.9	7	0.7%	18	1.1%
Tebufenozide	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2%	4	0.2%
Tebufenpyrad										0.0%	1	0.1%
Terbuthylazine									1	0.1%		0.0%
Thiabendazole	12	2.7	11	5.6	13	3.8	7	3.4	7	0.7%	23	1.4%
Thiacloprid	7	1.6	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Thiamethoxam	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%	1	0.1%
TNFA/TNFG										0.0%	6	0.4%
Triallate	1	0.2	1	0.5	3	0.9	1	0.5		0.0%	2	0.1%
Trifloxystrobin	6	1.3	2	1.0	8	2.3	2	1.0	5	0.5%	11	0.7%
Triflumizol/FM-6-1	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Triflumuron	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		0.0%		0.0%
Zoxamide										0.0%	2	0.1%

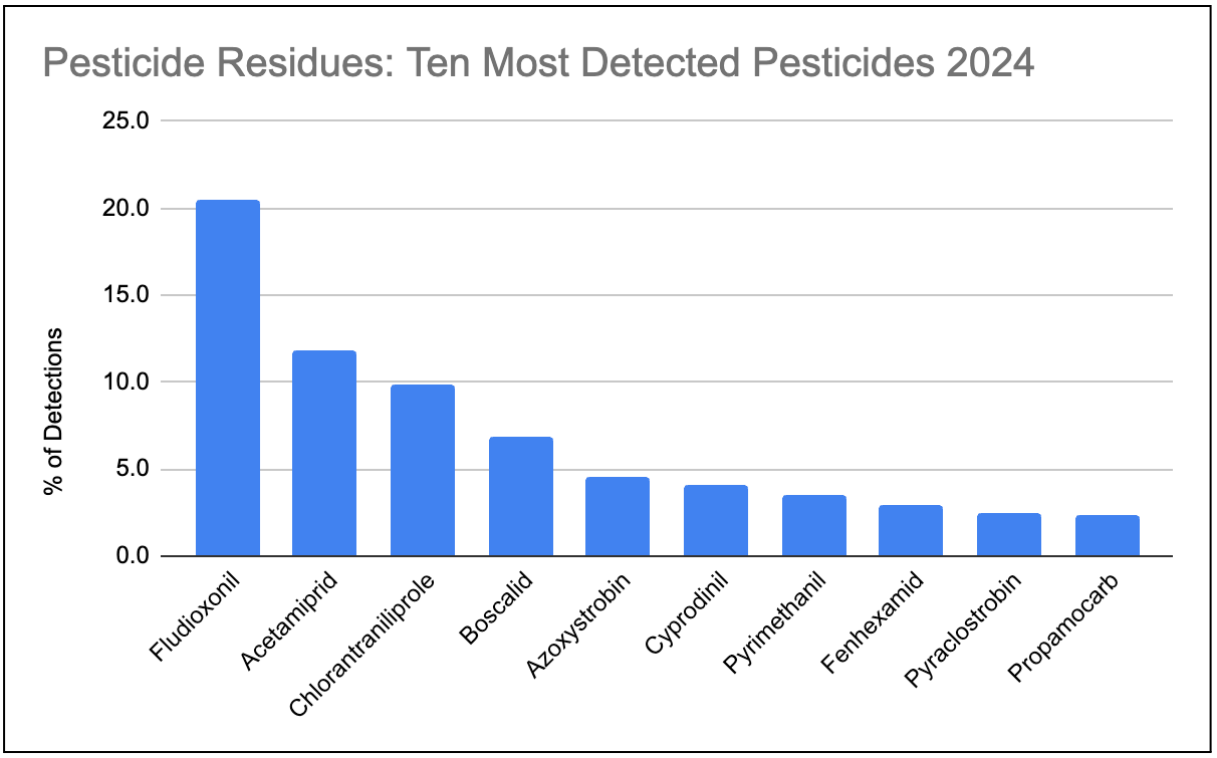
10. Summary of Most Detected Pesticides by Year

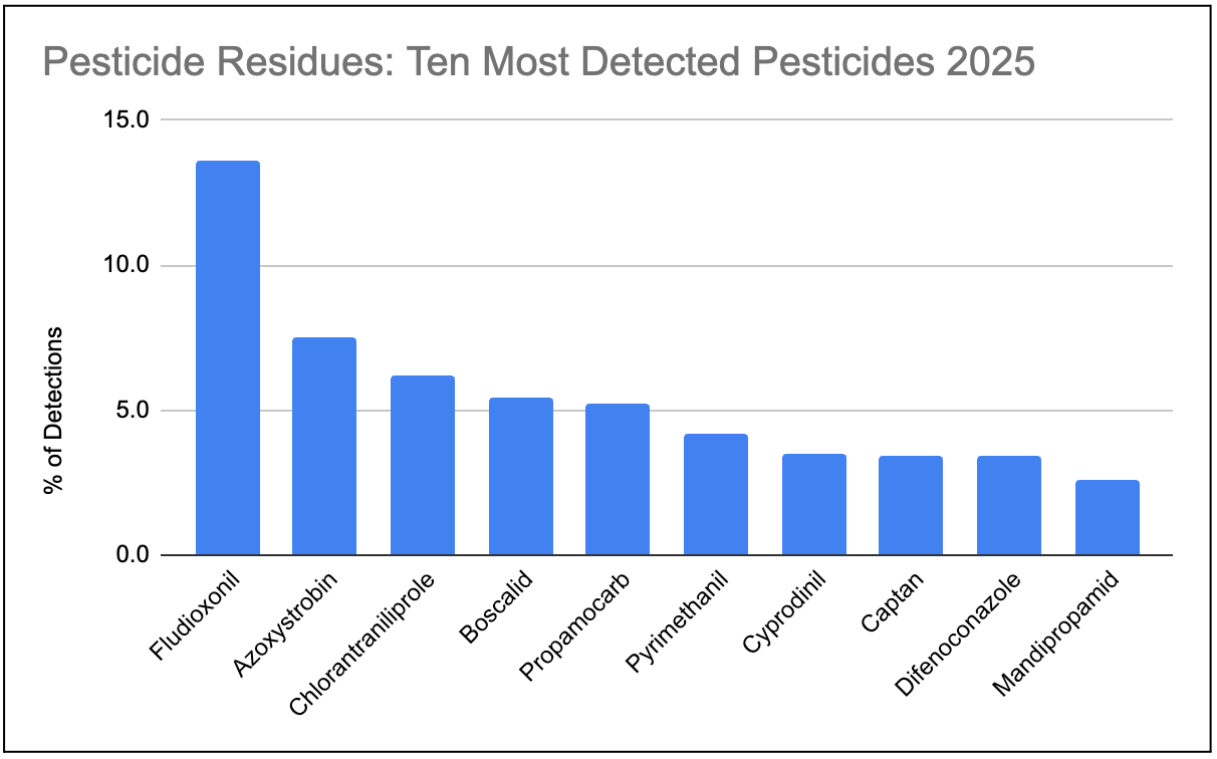





Pesticide Resdues: Ten Most Detected Pesticides 2022
% of Detections
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
Fludioxonil
Pyrimethanil
Boscalid
Azoxystrobin
Imazalil
Thiabendazole
Acetamiprid
Cyprodinil
Pyraclostrobin
Tebuconazole


Pesticide Resdues: Ten Most Detected Pesticides 2023
% of Detections
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
Fludioxonil
Pyrimethanil
Azoxystrobin
Boscalid
Acetamiprid
Pyraclostrobin
Tebuconazole
Imazalil
Thiabendazole
Cyprodinil





Of the most common pesticides found in the Waitrose residue testing program 2024-2025 the majority were fungicides, many of which are post harvest usage. Exceptions are chlorantraniliprole and Acetamiprid insecticides widely used to control chewing pests like caterpillars on fruit, vegetables and field crops,

11. Waitrose Restricted List Detections

1. Waitrose Pesticide Restricted List Detections 2020-2023

Waitrose Category	Number of Detections (Number of Pesticides)
Black List Pesticides Not to be used for crops destined to Waitrose	**0 (0)**
Red List Pesticides Pesticides not to be used unless a valid justification is conducted. Risk analysis and elimination plans must be in place and available to Waitrose	**9 (4)**
Amber List Pesticides Pesticides that may be used providing suppliers and growers understand the risks associated with these chemicals, that these risks are controlled and usage is monitored by suppliers throughout the Waitrose grower base	**310 (19)**

Summary of Waitrose Red list pesticides detected 2020-2023;

Pesticide	Product	Level Detected mg/kg	MRL mg/kg
Methomyl	Asparagus	0.01	0.01
Bifenthrin	Bananas Bananas Beans	0.01 0.02 0.03	0.10 0.10 0.10
Phosmet	Grapes	0.04	0.05
Imidacloprid	Mangetout peas Melon Melon Tangerine	0.01 0.01 0.01 0.01	5 0.5 0.5 1

List of Waitrose Amber list pesticides detected 2020-2023:

Acetamiprid	Cyprodinil	Maleic hydrazide	Thiabendazole
Azoxystrobin	Deltamethrin	Metalaxyl	Metalaxyl
Boscalid	Difenoconazole	Myclobutanil	Myclobutanil
Carbendazim	Fludioxonil	Pirimicarb	Pirimicarb
Cyhalothrin, lambda	Imazalil	Prochloraz	Prochloraz
Cypermethrin	Malathion	Tebuconazole	Tebuconazole
			Thiabendazole

2. Waitrose Pesticide Restricted List Detections 2024-2025

Black List Pesticides Not to be used for crops destined to Waitrose	Fenamiphos Aldrin and Dieldrin (Combined test)	*Note: 1 residue detected 2025 in prepared melon. Investigation showed that this soil acting pesticide had been applied to a previous crop not to a Waitrose crop* *Note: 2 residues detected in 2024. These were found in UK-grown pumpkins as legacy soil contaminants*
Red List Pesticides (1.4% of all pesticide detections) Pesticides not to be used unless a valid justification is conducted. Risk analysis and elimination plans must be in place and available to Waitrose	Acetamiprid Azoxystrobin Bifenthrin Boscalid Captan (and Captan Sum) Clothianidin Chlorantraniliprole Cypermethrin (and Cypermethrin Sum) Cyprodinil Deltamethrin Diazinon Difenoconazole Dodine Ethirimol Fenbuconazole Fenhexamid Fenpyroximate Flubendiamide Fludioxonil Flupyradifurone Fluvalinate / Tau-fluvalinate Isopyrazam Kresoxim-Methyl	Lambda-cyhalothrin Folpet Hexythiazox Imazalil Imidacloprid Indoxacarb Malathion Mepanipyrim Metaflumizone Sum Metalaxyl / Metalaxyl-M Myclobutanil Pendimethalin Pirimicarb Prochloraz Propargite Pyridaben Pyrimethanil Spinetoram Spinosad Spirodiclofen Sulfoxaflor Tebuconazole Thiabendazol Thiamethoxam
Amber List Pesticides (63.9%of all pesticide detections) Pesticides that may be used providing suppliers and growers understand the risks associated with these chemicals, that these risks are controlled and usage is monitored by suppliers throughout the Waitrose grower base	Acetamiprid Azoxystrobin Boscalid Captan Chlorantraniliprole Chlorpropham Copper hydroxide	Imazalil Indoxacarb Isopyrazam Kresoxim-Methyl Lambda Cyhalothrin Maleic hydrazide Mepanipyrim

	Cyhalothrin Cypermethrin Cyprodinil Deltamethrin Difenoconazole Dodine Ethirimol Etofenprox Fenazaquin Fenbuconazole Fenhexamid Fenpyroximate Fenvalerate Fluazinam Flubendiamide Fludioxonil Flupyradifurone Fluvalinate Hexythiazox	Metalaxyl Myclobutanil Pendimethalin Pirimicarb Prochloraz Propiconazole Pyrethrin Pyrethrins Pyridaben Pyrimethanil Spinetoram Spinosad Spirodiclofen Spiroxamine Sulfoxaflor Tau-Fluvalinate Tebuconazole Thiabendazole Triallate Triflumizol

The above table shows that Waitrose is effective in ensuring its Black List (prohibited) pesticides are not applied to crops grown for Waitrose. Those that were detected were 'legacy' pesticides that had been applied to fields, potentially many years previously, but had contaminated current crops

The Red list (restricted) pesticide detections have increased, however this may be due to the increased number of pesticide residue analysis tests being carried out and changes to our pesticide policy where the Red list of restricted pesticides has increased. It should be pointed out that Red list pesticides can only be used with a risk assessment being carried out by growers to ensure that MRL's are met and potential harm to the environment, biodiversity and pollinators are minimised. However it should be noted that only 1.4% of all pesticide residues detected appeared on the Red List.

Similarly residue analysis detections of pesticides in the Amber (monitored) list has increased due to a significant increase in testing and an expanded pesticide policy. Many Amber list pesticides are fungicides used to prevent post-harvest spoilage and food waste so their appearance in residue testing may not be totally unexpected.

12. Summary of Non Fresh Produce Pesticide Residue Testing 2020-2025

Product Category	PASS Total	OOS* Total	Grand Total	% Pass
Bakery	15		15	100
Beans, grains, lentils	17		17	100
Biscuits	1		1	100
Bread	12		12	100
Cereals	13		13	100
Cheese, yoghurt, butter	34		34	100
Cocoa	2		2	100
Coffee	5		5	100
Crisps	1		1	100
Dips, Soups and Sauces	8		8	100
Dried fruit, nuts and seeds	54	5	59	91
Eggs	8		8	100
Fish	24		24	100
Flour	19		19	100
Frozen fruit	8		8	100
Frozen veg	11		11	100
Grains	15		15	100
Herbs and Spices	10		10	100
Ice cream	1		1	100
Jam, honey, preserves, nut butters	24		24	100
Meat	29		29	100
Milk and cream	16		16	100
Olive oil	4		4	100
Olives	1		1	100
Pasta	7		7	100
Poultry	18		18	100
Prepared Salad	2		2	100
Rice	54	3	57	95
Soft drinks	13		13	100
Tea	2	2	4	50
Tinned fruit	6		6	100
Tinned vegetables	4		4	100
Tomato puree	3		3	100
Wine	8		8	100
Grand Total	**449**	**10**	**459**	**97.8**

*OOS - Out of Specification Result

* Not including residues from cleaning or water treatment chemicals

Summary of Out of Specification Results, Non-Fresh Produce Pesticide Testing

Date	Product	Pesticide Detected	Level mg/lg	MRL mg/kg
2020	White Basmati Aged Rice*	Buprofezin	0.017	0.01
2020	Brown Basmati Aged Rice*	Buprofezin Chlorpyrifos	0.2 0.037	0.1 0.01
2020	Organic dried mango	Imidacloprid	0.11	0.1
2021	Organic dried mango	Diphenylamine	0.014	0.01
2021	Camomile infusion tea	Chlorpyrifos	0.016	0.005
2022	Whole Grain Rice*	Propiconazole Tebuconazole Tricyclazole Pirimiphos-methyl Isoprothiolane	0.042 0.013 0.016 0.005 0.066	1.5 1.5 0.01 0.5 6
2024	Lapsang Souchong Tea	Biphenyl** Anthraquinone** 2-Phenylphenol** Folpet Phthalimide (breakdown product of Folpet)	1.3 0.37 0.24 0.34 0.17	0.05 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.1
2025	Pumpkin Seeds 175g	Pyraclostrobin	0.031	0.02
2025	Soft apricot	Dodine	0.311	0.1
2025	Dried apricots	Fosetyl-Al	3.4	2

* Product within MRL at time of import into the UK, MRL lowered during storage period

** Likely to be a contaminant of Lapsang Souchong's signature wood-smoking process rather than direct pesticide application

Whilst 10 individual tests above the MRL are concerning they represent 2.2% of all non-produce Pesticide Residue Testing over a six year period. This level of MRL exceedance rate is similar to that found by the UK government's Pesticide Residues in Food reports (PRiF) over a similar period of between 2% and 2.5%.

13. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Scope and Methodology

Throughout this period, 2020 to 2025, Waitrose has maintained a comprehensive, independent analysis program covering **162 product types** (128 fresh produce product types and 34 non fresh produce product types) sourced from **57 countries**. To ensure the highest integrity, samples were collected directly from shops by independent laboratories, ensuring Waitrose had no influence over which specific items were selected for testing as well as having access to test results from suppliers and growers carried out by independent laboratories. Supplier testing results have been included in the 2024 and 2025 data. This risk-based approach ensures that the maximum number of tests can be carried out whilst still reflecting the actual consumer experience.

2. Compliance with Legal Standards (MRL)

The Maximum Residue Level (MRL) is the legal limit for pesticides in food when Good Agricultural Practices are followed.

- **Exceedance Rates:** From 2020 to 2023, only **0.45%** of tests (6 residues total) were above the MRL. This high standard was maintained through 2024–2025, with the total period average remaining below **0.5%**.

  For comparison Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) survey data over the same period shows an MRL exceedance rate of 1.6% – 3.0%.

- **Safety Margins:** The vast majority of detections were significantly below legal limits. By the end of 2025, approximately **98% of all detections** were at less than 50% of the MRL, and over **90%** were at less than 20% of the MRL.

  Again this is below the national average with PRiF data showing **94% of samples** at less than 50% of the MRL. Showing that Waitrose produce is more likely to be well above the legal safety ceiling.

3. Residue Frequency and Trends

The program has seen a positive shift toward "residue-free" produce over the last six years:

- **No Residues Detected:** In the 2020–2023 period, 48% of all tests showed no detectable residues. Through 2024 and 2025, this figure improved to over **50%**, reflecting the success of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) initiatives.

PRiF data shows **51% – 58% of tests with** no detectable residues. However PRiF often shows higher "nil" results because it includes more low-risk commodities (e.g., grains/animal products).

- **Multiple Residues:** Approximately 37% of tests (2020–2023) showed more than one residue, though these were almost exclusively at trace levels (less than 5% of the MRL). This trend stabilized through 2025 as Waitrose worked with growers to minimize multiple residues in products.

  PRiF data over the same period shows 41% – 49% of tests resulting in more than one residue. Waitrose samples show lower incidences of multiple residues compared to the national average.

4. Restricted Chemical Performance

Waitrose utilizes a traffic-light system (Black, Red, and Amber lists) to phase out high-concern pesticides:

- **Black List (Prohibited):** Maintained a perfect record of **zero detections** from 2020 through 2023. In 2024 and 2025 2 incidents of Black List pesticides were detected, however these were soil borne legacy chemicals and had not been applied to crops.
- **Red List (Restricted):** Detections remained extremely rare, dropping from 9 instances in the first four years to an average of fewer than 2% per year by 2025.
- **Amber List:** These remain the most common detections, primarily fungicides used to prevent post-harvest spoilage and food waste.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion: The results of the 2020–2025 testing program confirm that pesticide residue levels in Waitrose fresh produce are consistently either nil or significantly below legal safety limits. The extremely low MRL exceedance rate (less than 0.5%) demonstrates that Waitrose suppliers are operating at a level of agricultural best practice that exceeds standard regulatory requirements.

Recommendations: Future work would include;

1. **Focused IPM Development:** Prioritise research into non-chemical alternatives targeting the most frequently detected pesticide residues.

The following pesticides/crop combinations have been highlighted as appearing most frequently and must be included in any future IPM/Residue reduction programs;

Crop	**Country**	**Pesticide**	**Comments**
Citrus Fruit	South Africa	Imazalil	Post Harvest Applications
Leafy Greens & Brassicas	United Kingdom	Lenacil, Acetamiprid, Propyzamide, Cyantraniliprole, and Fenvalerate	Insect control in times of high pest pressure
Sugar Snaps	Guatemala, Peru, USA	Chlorothalonil, Fipronil, Phosphonic acid / Fosetyl-Al	Various usages

2. **Supplier Engagement:** Continue collaborative risk assessments for products showing consistent multiple residues, even at low levels.
3. **Real-Time Monitoring:** Increase the frequency of shop-floor sampling for high-volume seasonal lines to ensure consistency during peak supply periods or in higher risk periods.