

Strychnine De-registration and Disposal Fact Sheet



Strychnine is a poison; only a small amount is needed to produce severe effects in humans or animals. Extreme care must be taken when handling strychnine or any pesticide. The following information explains why strychnine is no longer permitted for control of Richardson's ground squirrels in Canada and how it should be disposed.

- Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regulates pesticides registered for use in Canada.
- Before a pesticide is considered for registration, it must undergo extensive testing to determine the potential risks posed to human health, animal health, and the environment.
- PMRA re-evaluates registered pesticides every 15 years (or sooner) to determine if the use of the product continues to be acceptable according to current standards.
- In March 2020, PMRA issued a final decision to de-register strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control in Canada.
 - A phased approach allowed Agromax, the manufacturer, to produce strychnine until March 2021 and sales could continue until March 2022.
 - Strychnine was allowed to be used until March 2023, after which it became illegal for Richardson's ground squirrel control.
- In March 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture, with assistance from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), put out a call to rural municipalities (RM) to assess their strychnine inventories in the province.
- Under federal legislation, Agromax was obligated to collect and dispose of all unsold existing strychnine stock in the distribution and retail chains.
- Agromax collected the leftover strychnine from the RMs and in October 2022 it was then delivered to CleanFarms for disposal through the unwanted farm pesticide collection program.
- CleanFarms disposed of the excess strychnine at no cost to rural municipalities.
- The ministry, SARM, Agromax and CleanFarms collaborated to facilitate this mass collection of the excess strychnine inventory from rural municipality offices across the province.
- Producers can dispose of any excess strychnine product they have on hand after March 2023 through the CleanFarms unwanted farm chemical collection events. Visit [Saskatchewan Programs & Events – Cleanfarms](#) for more details.
- For strychnine alternatives to control Richardson ground squirrels, visit our webpage [Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel | Pastures, Grazing, Hay and Silage | Government of Saskatchewan](#).