

## **ATRAZINE — Effective. Affordable. Vital. *Threatened.***

**The future of your crop protection tools is at stake. Now is the time to tell EPA to follow good science and let them know what atrazine means to your crop production.**

### **The facts**

Atrazine herbicide is currently under EPA registration review, which is required of all pesticides every 15 years to update and modernize the science and risk assessments. As part of the review process, EPA recently posted its [draft ecological risk assessment](#), which contains numerous data and methodological errors and needs to be corrected.

- EPA re-registered atrazine in 2006 and began its regularly scheduled registration re-review in June 2013, a process that typically takes six years to complete.
- On June 2, 2016, EPA posted its draft ecological risk assessment, which drew conclusions based on a number of scientific errors and flawed interpretations.
- The draft ecological risk assessment discounted several rigorous, high-quality scientific studies and used studies EPA's own 2012 Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) deemed as flawed.
- The draft ecological risk assessment is inconsistent with a number of EPA's previous conclusions and assessments by other regulatory agencies around the world.
- The best science and data must remain the cornerstone of this important regulatory process.
- EPA has opened and extended a public comment period. You may comment on the draft assessment today through the end of the public comment period, **October 4, 2016**.
- Simazine is another herbicide of the same class of chemistry as atrazine that can be used to control weeds in many crops, including corn in certain situations and areas<sup>1</sup>. EPA has issued a separate environmental assessment on simazine that puts products containing simazine under similar regulatory threat.
- After reviewing public comments, EPA has stated it will revise the ecological risk assessment, as appropriate, and will hold an SAP in 2017.
- When given a thorough science review, we are confident that the continued, longstanding safety of atrazine and simazine will once again be confirmed.

### **What you can do**

To post a public comment on atrazine:

1. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266> for direct access to the atrazine docket (EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266)
2. Under the box "Atrazine Registration Review" at top of page, click on blue "**Comments Now**" box (to the right of "Draft Ecological Risk Assessments: Atrazine, Simazine, and Propazine Registration Review")
3. Type or paste your comments into box (max 5,000 words) and upload any documents, then press "**Continue**" button at bottom of page on right
4. On preview page, 1) review your comments, 2) check box "I read and understand the statement above," and 3) press "Submit comment."

<sup>1</sup> Simazine is the active ingredient in the products Princep® 4L herbicide, Princep Caliber 90® herbicide and other similar products.

Please consider submitting comments to EPA. Information capturing the value atrazine brings to your weed control program, such as what is reflected in the example text below, will be especially helpful to EPA.

*My farming operation consists of \_\_\_\_\_ acres of \_\_\_\_ (crops)\_\_\_\_. Atrazine is important to my operation for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_ (examples: managing hard-to-control and herbicide-resistant weeds, cost-effective weed control, increased yields, fewer trips across the field, crop safety, flexible timing of application, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_. Without atrazine my weed control program will \_\_\_\_\_ (examples: not be as effective, alternatives would cost \$[X] more per acre, my herbicide program will be less sustainable, my herbicide program will necessitate revisiting management practices that are beneficial to the environment such as conservation till and no-till farming, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_.*

### What atrazine means to agriculture

- One of the most closely examined pesticides in the world, atrazine's safety has been established in nearly 7,000 scientific studies over more than 50 years.
- More than 90 herbicide products contain atrazine to improve weed control.
- Atrazine has been the backbone of weed control in the U.S. for more than 50 years.
- Significantly more than half of all U.S. corn acres, and two-thirds of U.S. sorghum and sugarcane acres, rely on this safe and essential herbicide to produce food sustainably.
- Atrazine increases crop yields and enables [conservation tillage and no-till farming](#), helping soil health and to keep aquatic systems healthy by dramatically reducing soil runoff into rivers and streams.
- Atrazine is a crucial tool for weed resistance management.
- Atrazine saves U.S. farmers and consumers up to \$3.3 billion and \$4.8 billion each year, respectively. Various economic analysis studies show farming without atrazine would cost corn growers up to a range of \$30 and \$59 per acre. While corn prices have fallen since some of the reports were written, the availability of atrazine for use in corn could make the difference in growers making a profit or loss on their crop.
- This important tool for sustainable agriculture deserves a scientific process that includes the best available data and a thorough and comprehensive scientific review.

### Important links

- [www.Agsense.org](http://www.Agsense.org)
- [www.SavingtheOasis.com](http://www.SavingtheOasis.com)
- [www.atrazine.com](http://www.atrazine.com)

©2016 Syngenta. **Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status.** Princep<sup>®</sup>, Princep Caliber 90<sup>®</sup> and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.