



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Drumheller-Stettler*

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Government of Canada
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health Canada
Government of Canada
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Bibeau and Minister Duclos:

I am writing to you with respect to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) change of use of the pesticide lambda-cyhalothrin (Matador) effective April 1, 2023. As a result, Syngenta, the manufacturer/distributor is no longer selling Matador in Western Canada and has recalled this product and other products containing lambda-cyhalothrin as the active ingredient. The product is still available in Eastern Canada for the use of horticultural markets.

Matador is a critically important insecticide for grasshoppers, flea beetles and other serious crop pests for cereal, oilseed pulse, forage/pasture and horticultural crops. At this time, there is no effective alternative on the market. We understand that an application for an extension from a manufacturer, with corroborating scientific evidence, was submitted a year ago with no response. This lack of response from PMRA, PMRA's decision, and the resulting impact of this product being pulled from Alberta shelves with no effective available alternative, is irresponsible.

Farmers and ranchers in Alberta are extremely concerned about the impact of PMRA's decision. Alberta suffered a severe drought in 2021. With continued drought in southern parts of the province in 2022, the potential exists for a grasshopper population explosion. With no other effective tools for pest control available in 2023, prairie producers are at severe risk of crop failure this coming crop season if grasshopper, flea beetle or other insect pest populations spike. The potential recovery costs of this would be significant.

As a result of the PMRA decision, Western Canadian producers will lose an effective tool for pest management. The lack of available feed at home, and the potential devastation of prairie crops from pests will put immense pressure on producers, potentially exacerbating the food affordability crisis and decreasing food security in Canada.

.../2

In the interest of Alberta producers, food affordability, and food security for Canadians, I am asking you to intervene on the implementation of the PMRA decision and delay the April 1, 2023, effective date regarding lambda-cyhalothrin products until an effective alternative is available, or the decision is made to reverse the PMRA change. Your action is needed urgently to reverse the impacts already being felt by the PMRA decision and to allow producers a fair chance at a reasonable crop season in 2023.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Honourable Nate Horner
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation