

**Syngenta Crop Protection**

PO Box 18300  
Greensboro, NC 27419  
Tel: 336 632 6000  
Fax: 336 632 2290

[www.syngenta-us.com](http://www.syngenta-us.com)

**Media contacts:**

Sherry Duvall Ford  
336 632 6107  
[sherry.ford@syngenta.com](mailto:sherry.ford@syngenta.com)

Steven Goldsmith  
336 632 2517  
[steven.goldsmith@syngenta.com](mailto:steven.goldsmith@syngenta.com)

**media release**

Greensboro, N.C., USA, January 25, 2010

**Minnesota affirms atrazine regulation is protective**

- State review finds [atrazine](#) regulations protect human health and the environment in Minnesota
- Detections of atrazine in public water supply systems in Minnesota are rare
- University of Minnesota scientists say there are no direct replacements for atrazine currently registered for use

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) this month completed a special registration [review](#) of the corn herbicide atrazine for the State of Minnesota.

[According to the MDA](#), "The review finds that atrazine regulations protect human health and the environment in Minnesota."

"Minnesota's independent and exhaustive evaluation determined that atrazine use, as currently managed and regulated, is not harmful to humans or aquatic life and that it is rarely detected in Minnesota's public water systems," said Dr. Tim Pastoor, principal scientist at Syngenta Crop Protection. "Minnesota's findings affirm what 6,000 scientific studies and 50 years of experience have told us. When the science does the talking, atrazine is found safe to use."

Atrazine is a well-studied herbicide applied to corn, grain sorghum, sugar cane and other crops in the U.S. that farmers rely upon worldwide to produce safe, affordable and abundant food. In addition, atrazine is a key component of soil conservation programs.

Small amounts of atrazine may run off certain fields during heavy rains following its application. However, the Minnesota review states that "Detections of atrazine in public water supply systems in Minnesota are rare." State scientists also monitored private water wells. The review states "atrazine concentrations in private wells are expected to be absent or below established health benchmarks."

MPCA work is cited in the review stating "existing state standards for atrazine are protective of surface water aquatic life uses. Surface water monitoring since 1993 has not shown any waters with atrazine concentrations that violated the state's water quality standards resulting in any impaired waters determinations." Data

from monitoring programs suggest that atrazine concentrations may be declining over time.

### **Benefits to Farmers**

Farmers rely on atrazine to control weeds on more than half of U.S. corn, and a 2003 EPA review said “the total or national economic impact resulting from the loss of atrazine to control grass and broadleaf weeds in corn, sorghum and sugar cane would be in excess of [\\$2 billion per year](#) if atrazine were unavailable to growers.”

The Minnesota [review](#) also discusses the importance of atrazine to farmers. It states, “Atrazine continues to be an important weed-control tool in Minnesota corn production.” University of Minnesota weed scientists are quoted as saying “there are no direct replacements for atrazine in preemergent weed control that are currently registered for use in Minnesota.”

“Syngenta is an active steward of all its products including atrazine,” Pastoor said. “We work closely with farmers and farm groups to help promote agricultural best-management practices to minimize runoff and to inform applicators about products containing atrazine and the label requirements of those products.”

The review incorporated public comments at the beginning of the review process and is in the midst of a 60-day public comment period which ends March 19.

For more information, visit [www.atrazine.com](http://www.atrazine.com).

Syngenta is one of the world's leading companies with more than 24,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to our purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to our customers we help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life. For more information about us please go to [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com) or [www.growmorefromless.com](http://www.growmorefromless.com).

###

### **Media contacts:**

Sherry Duvall Ford  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
336-632-6107 or [sherry.ford@syngenta.com](mailto:sherry.ford@syngenta.com)

Steven Goldsmith  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
336-632-2517 or [steven.goldsmith@syngenta.com](mailto:steven.goldsmith@syngenta.com)

### **Related links:**

[www.atrazine.com](http://www.atrazine.com)  
[www.syngenta-us.com](http://www.syngenta-us.com)  
[www.syngentacropprotection.com](http://www.syngentacropprotection.com)

### **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This document contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by terminology such as ‘expect’, ‘would’, ‘will’, ‘potential’, ‘plans’, ‘prospects’, ‘estimated’, ‘aiming’, ‘on track’ and similar expressions. Such statements may be subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from these statements. We refer you to Syngenta's publicly available filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for information about these and other risks and uncertainties. Syngenta assumes no obligation to

update forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changed assumptions or other factors. This document does not constitute, or form part of, any offer or invitation to sell or issue, or any solicitation of any offer, to purchase or subscribe for any ordinary shares in Syngenta AG, or Syngenta ADSs, nor shall it form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract therefore.