

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

0.4% Strychnine Baiting & Monitoring

This information is provided for general guidance only. Always follow the product label, the manufacturer's instructions, and provincial stewardship guidelines. Each farm is responsible for completing its own farm-specific hazard and risk assessment and for eliminating hazards or putting appropriate control measures in place. Using this document does not change or remove any obligations under the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Pest Control Products Act, or any other applicable laws or regulatory requirements. AgSafe Alberta does not accept liability for the use of this information. By using or sharing this document, the Operator agrees to waive any right to bring claims against AgSafe Alberta and to indemnify and hold harmless AgSafe Alberta, its officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from any claims arising now or in the future, including claims related to negligence or breaches of statutory or common law duties.

BASIC INFORMATION

Safe transportation of 2% liquid strychnine concentrate is essential due to its extreme toxicity. It is a restricted-use pesticide in Canada that has been authorized for specific emergency use until November 1, 2027 and only in specific areas.

HAZARDS & RISKS

Leaks or spills from improper handling, unsecured containers, damaged containers. Corrosive to the eyes. Fatal if swallowed or absorbed through eyes. May be fatal if absorbed through the skin, or if aerosol/dust from treated bait is inhaled, or if ingested. Highly toxic to all forms of life (wildlife, birds, pets, livestock, non-target species, aquatic life). Poisoning from exposed bait, poisoned carcasses, spilled bait, contaminated water may occur and is a major concern. Exposures relating to theft, unauthorized access, improper storage and handling. Chronic or repeated low level exposures and lead to cumulative effects. Strychnine persistence in the soil is possible.

DO

- Ensure only authorized, qualified people handle and transport the product.
- Have an integrated pest management plan in place and actively being used.
- Complete a farm-specific hazard and risk assessment to ensure the safe transport of the product.
- Ensure the people transporting, handling, and working on the farm around the product are aware of the risks as well as the signs and symptoms of exposure.
- Have a written plan in place for how to deal with a spill or exposure.
- Place the bait deep in the burrow and cover it well; ensure the bait is not visible from the surface and helps reduce unnecessary exposure.
- Time bait application carefully, such as when the burrows are being actively used and there are fewer food sources available.

DO NOT

- **Do not** leave unsecured or unattended.
- **Do not** eat, drink, smoke, or touch your face when handling the product or product container.
- **Do not** scatter bait on the ground.
- **Do not** place it in high risk areas (e.g., near homes, recreation areas, water sources, etc.).
- **Do not** leave poisoned animals exposed or miss checks.
- **Do not** cross contaminate feed, food, water supplies, etc.
- **Do not** use or handle in any unapproved way.
- **Do not** underestimate the risks of strychnine.
- **Do not** place too much (excess) bait into a burrow.
- **Do not** bury the carcasses or strychnine bait too shallow or too deeply.

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☑ DO	☒ DO NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor often, especially in high-density areas.• Immediately remove of carcasses and dispose of properly.• Dispose of spilled bait and uneaten bait properly.• Document findings.	

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure you are an approved purchaser/user of the product in accordance with farm, municipal, provincial, and federal requirements. Use the 0.4% strychnine bait as a last resort, as part of an integrated pest management approach.2. Confirm species at risk are not present in the area(s) where bait is planned to be used.3. Store 2% strychnine concentrate and prepared bait in a secure, locked area until immediately before use.4. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for handling the 0.4% strychnine bait. This includes:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Coveralls over a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. A chemical resistant apron may be appropriate.b. Chemical resistant footwear with socks.c. Chemical resistant gloves.d. A NIOSH-approved half or full-face respirator with organic-vapor-particulate (OVP) filters. Half-mask respirators will require protective eyewear (e.g., goggles that seal around the eyes to protect against both dust and splashes) and a face shield. Note: Anyone who may be required to wear a respirator will need to be fit-tested and clean shaven.5. Always follow the product label, the manufacturer's instructions, and provincial stewardship guidelines for baiting and monitoring. The farm should also develop and use its own farm specific plan for baiting and monitoring. For example, bait areas should be pre-planned to protect human life and non-target species (see AgSafe Alberta's resources to help with this) and the monitoring schedule may need to be increased due to high populations of Richardson's ground squirrel.6. Place all of the warning signage at all normal access points and where the bait is placed following provincial stewardship guidelines. Signs must stay in place until the end of the treatment period.7. Place the recommended amount of strychnine treated bait deep in the burrow so that it is not visible from the surface. Cover the burrow entrance. On some operations, it may make sense to mark baited burrows with small stake/utility flags to check for disturbance or if the bait has become visible from the surface.8. During baiting, keep a properly labelled disposal container and appropriate clean up equipment with you. In the event bait is spilled, clean it up immediately and very well.

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GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE (CONTINUED...)

- 9. During baiting, keep a properly labelled disposal container and appropriate clean up equipment with you. In the event bait is spilled, clean it up immediately and very well.
- 10. After baiting, monitor the baited areas as directed by the product label, provincial stewardship guidelines, and the farms own on plan. During monitoring, look for dead animals (all types) and any uneaten or exposed bait. Remember, more frequent monitoring and carcass clean up may be required!
- 11. Safety remove and dispose of all carcasses and exposed bait according to the label and provincial stewardship guidelines and according to the farms hazard and risk assessment.
 - a. If burial will be the method of disposal, ensure the burial pit is at least 46 cm/18 inches deep. Note that deeper burial (deeper than 60 cm/24 inches) may reduce natural break down of strychnine and increase the likelihood of longer term persistence in the soil.
 - b. Report of any non-target animal deaths according to the provincial stewardship guidelines.
- 12. Keep records of monitoring and disposal following provincial stewardship guidelines and the farms own records. Mark out and keep track of the burial area - remember, strychnine is stable, breakdown of strychnine will naturally be slower in parts of Alberta, breakdown can be further slowed (or prevented) if the strychnine binds to soil particles and slowed even more if the carcasses and strychnine bait is buried too deeply. Later soil testing may be needed.
- 13. Warning signs may only be removed after the treatment period has ended. If stake/utility flags were used, remove these as well.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

- [Strychnine Stewardship Training](#)
- [Strychnine Label](#)

HYPERLINK TO VIDEO

Not applicable

DOCUMENT ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Date Reviewed	Date Approved for Use By Farm	Approved By

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Date Reviewed	Print Name	Signature