

Copper Sulfate CAS No. 1333-22-8

Why is it on the list?

Copper Sulfate is classified as FSC Highly Hazardous due to its: **Acute toxicity to aquatic organisms.**

All copper compounds are toxic to aquatic organisms which is a risk as Copper sulfate is highly soluble in water and therefore is easy to distribute in the environment.

Why do we still need to use it?

Copper Sulfate is not used as a pesticide in Australian forestry, it is used as a soil mineral supplement. Copper is a critical nutrient for normal growth in all plants.

Certain soils in coastal lowlands in Queensland are so deficient in copper that commercial plantations are not possible without adding additional forms of copper.

Additional controls

Soils are surveyed in advance to ensure only those deficient in copper are treated with copper fertiliser.

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Buffers are applied to all waterways.

The search for an alternative

The one company applying to use Copper Sulfate maintains a series of long term fertilizer treatment response trials to determine the longevity of fertilizer persistence in the soils beyond the length of a single rotation.

In addition, investigations are underway to determine whether alternative copper compounds (not listed on the FSC Highly Hazardous list) may be substituted for copper sulfate or cuprous oxide.

To comment please complete the [2015 FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide Derogation Stakeholder Survey](#)