

# Drainflow Risk Communication Tools

Agricultural drains are a key transport pathway for pesticides entering ditches, streams and rivers. Currently there are a suite of pesticides that are problematic with respect to achieving compliance with the Water Framework and Drinking Water Directives that are potentially transported via this pathway.

In order to promote and support best practice with respect to the use of pesticides and agricultural drainflow a suite of risk communication tools have been developed. This package of tools provides additional risk management tools in support of in-field risk identification through the development of Crop Protection Management Plans and in addition to the individual product stewardship campaigns that are underway at present. This is achieved by providing further tools and information to assist agronomists, land managers, contract farmers and contract sprayers in their decision making processes through informing a series of questions along a risk decision tree with respect to drainflow:

1. Is this a potentially risky location?
2. Is this a potentially risky time?
3. Is the proposed pesticide usage regime potentially risky?
  - a. To local water bodies?
  - b. To my catchment if everyone else had the same usage regime?

The tools are web-based to promote ease of access and enable the use of a map browser which allows users to make these assessments for specific locations. Getting started is easy, simply:

1. Enter the web address in your web browser
2. Launch the map browser on the tools page
3. Zoom into your location or enter the grid reference
4. Select the soil type, pesticide product, application rate and likely application date
5. Check the results and explore what happens if you change your practice

In addition, there are a range of hard copy resources available for download and links to other sources of information. For further information see the website or email [drainflowtool@adas.co.uk](mailto:drainflowtool@adas.co.uk).

Is your planned pesticide usage regime potentially risky?

Are you applying pesticides at an inherently risky time?

Are you applying pesticides in an inherently risky location?

**Risk Decision Tree**

**Online Spatial Risk Tool**