

# Eden Newsletter

Update on water quality in the Eden catchment



Newsletter 11: Autumn 2018

## Latest news

### Catchment management declaration

In June, we were one of 80+ organisations to sign up to a Catchment Management declaration. The declaration commits us to six principles, aimed at finding a sustainable approach to managing water catchments. Water is a shared resource, critical to our health and environment, so we're exploring a number of avenues, including working with farmers to reduce pesticides and phosphate within our rivers and streams. You can view the declaration at

[www.seswater.co.uk/catchmentmanagement](http://www.seswater.co.uk/catchmentmanagement)

## How can you help?

It's important for us to keep metaldehyde out of our drinking water sources, and we need your help to do this. If you're growing oil seed rape or winter wheat this autumn, and are likely to be applying slug pellets, please look to purchase and use an alternative that does not contain metaldehyde. We usually see some of the highest concentrations of metaldehyde between September and December – which is when we begin abstracting water. Our drinking water quality compliance for 2017 was 99.98%. The 0.02% was not related to metaldehyde but it does pose a major challenge to treatment as it is not easily removed. Since 2012 we've been trialling the use of ferric phosphate as an alternative to metaldehyde in the Eden catchment with a small number of farmers. We would urge you to use an alternative and if this is something you would also be keen to be involved in, please get in touch.

## IMPORTANT

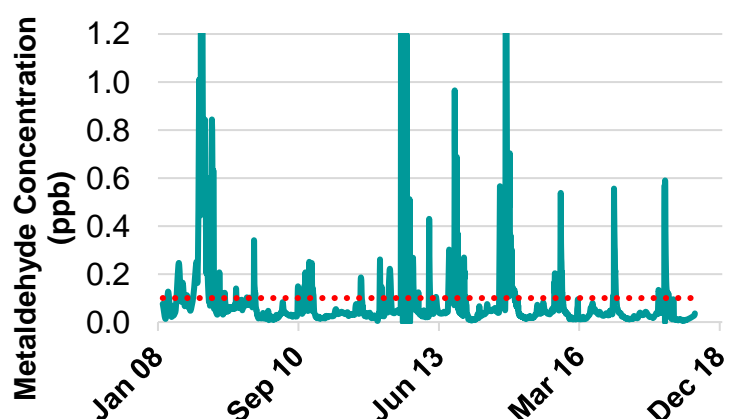
When applying slug pellets, please ensure you follow the Get Pelletwise guidelines.

- No pellets to be allowed to fall within a minimum of 10 metres of any field boundary or watercourse
- Use minimum active per ha to avoid drainage and run-off losses
- Maximum application rate 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha\*. For additional protection of water, suppliers / BASIS advisors may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less
- Maximum total dose from 1st August to 31st December: 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha. For additional protection of water, suppliers / BASIS advisors may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less
- Maximum total dose rate: 700g (the statutory limit) metaldehyde a.s/ha/calendar year
- Do not apply when heavy rain is forecast
- If drains are flowing do not apply metaldehyde based slug pellets

a.s.: active substance (or active ingredient)

For advice and more information, contact the Metaldehyde Stewardship group on 0845 1770117 or visit [www.getpelletwise.co.uk](http://www.getpelletwise.co.uk).

**Metaldehyde Concentration in the River Eden**



If you have any queries, prefer to receive this newsletter electronically or no longer wish to hear from us, email [catchment@seswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment@seswater.co.uk).