Florverde Policy on Exceptional Use of Pesticides:

Exceptions granted and their conditions for using pesticides prohibited by Florverde Sustainable Flowers (FSF)

Implementation Date: January 15, 2026
Effective as of: January 15, 2026

Version: 1.1

Linked to: FSF List of Prohibited Pesticides
Applicable to: Farm certificate holders

The policies complement or replace related rules or requirements for the parties to which they apply.

Contents

1. Overview of Key Changes

Despite the efforts made by FSF-certified producers to advance toward floriculture with reduced use of chemical pesticides through integrated management, crops remain highly vulnerable to pests. This, combined with the limited availability of effective and less toxic alternatives, as well as the phytosanitary requirements they must meet in the destination countries of the flowers, has posed significant challenges.

The process of substituting these molecules has been particularly complex, as many of them do not offer the same level of efficacy, or such alternatives are not registered or commercially available in the countries where certified producers operate. This situation has represented a significant technical challenge in eliminating these products.

While FSF remains committed to promoting the implementation of safer solutions and to supporting producers in their transition toward more sustainable practices. During this period, certified producers must implement strict mitigation measures to minimize impacts on human health and the environment, as well as continue actively and documented exploration of less toxic alternatives.

2. Introduction

It is possible to establish and maintain healthy and resilient ornamental production systems with minimal dependence on pesticide use. Through the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, FSF-certified producers can achieve sustainable pest control while protecting human health and ecosystems.

However, despite global progress toward agricultural models with reduced agrochemical use, many production systems, including the floriculture sector, continue to rely on pesticides, with widely documented impacts on health and the environment.

In this context, FSF has adopted an Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (EUPP) as a temporary tool to support producers in their transition toward more sustainable floriculture. This policy allows for limited and conditional exceptions for the use of certain active ingredients included in the FSF list of prohibited pesticides, when no technically viable alternatives exist or when their restriction would compromise the economic viability of the crop.

Exceptions are granted only for specific combinations of crop, pest, and country and are restricted to a defined period. Additionally, producers receiving this exceptional authorization must comply with strict mitigation measures, document their implementation, and demonstrate an active search for less toxic alternatives.

FSF considers local data on product registration, commercial availability of alternatives, and specific pest pressures. This analysis is supported by specialized tools such as international

databases and technical criteria, as well as advice from experts with experience in sustainable flower and ornamental production.

3. Important Considerations:

- The FSF Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (EUPP) is formulated based on requests submitted by certified producers, following the procedure established by FSF. These requests are evaluated by the Florverde Technical and Administrative Secretariat, supported by the analysis of technical experts with experience in floriculture and sustainable production.
- The EUPP is reviewed and updated in accordance with identified regulatory changes, to maintain alignment with the production context, the evolution of phytosanitary risks, and the availability of less toxic alternatives.
- No exceptions will be granted for the use of active ingredients included in the FSF List of Prohibited Pesticides, such as Aldicarb, DDT, Endosulfan, Fipronil, Lindane, Methamidophos, Methyl Parathion, Paraquat, among others, recognized for their high toxicity and classification as hazardous by international conventions such as Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Montreal. This prohibition aligns with FSF's policy of categorically restricting the use of molecules with severe impacts on human health and ecosystems, in line with its commitment to environmentally responsible and socially sustainable floriculture.

3.1 Criteria for Inclusion in the Prohibited Pesticides List

Florverde bases its list of prohibited pesticides on internationally recognized regulatory references. Specifically, active ingredients officially prohibited by the following are considered:

- The European Union (EU) through its database of non-approved pesticides.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), via its list of prohibited or severely restricted pesticides.
- The Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), the entity responsible for phytosanitary regulation in Colombia.

These lists are public and can be consulted in their respective official sources.

Other sources that may be considered include:

- Rotterdam Convention (PIC): List of substances subject to prior informed consent.
- Stockholm Convention (POP): Persistent organic pollutants.
- Pesticide Action Network (PAN): List of highly hazardous pesticides.
- World Health Organization (WHO): Active ingredients classified in toxicity categories Ia and Ib.

Additionally, FSF may consult other international databases and scientific studies as complementary reference sources, though these do not themselves constitute a direct basis

for prohibition.

Once active ingredients included in at least one of these sources are identified, FSF validates the risk assessment, considering the following factors:

- Frequency and conditions of the active ingredient's use in flower and ornamental production.
- Availability of technically viable and safe alternatives for controlling the target pest, as well as proposals for replacing the prohibited pesticide, including timelines for progressive implementation.
- Risks to human health and the environment that motivated their prohibition in the consulted regulatory frameworks.
- Proposed alternatives for mitigating associated risks

Based on this technical evaluation, FSF may adjust the List of Prohibited Pesticides and define transition periods to facilitate the progressive substitution of these products, allowing producers to adapt operationally without compromising plant health or production viability.

3.2 Application Process before the FSF Technical and Administrative Secretariat

To initiate the technical evaluation process with FSF, the interested party must prepare an official request letter following the defined format.

This letter must be requested in advance via email at coordinador@florverde.org. Once received and correctly completed, the FSF Technical and Administrative Secretariat will manage the evaluation. The corresponding risk analysis for the active ingredient the company wishes to have evaluated must be included, together with the proposed mitigation plan based on the identified risks.

The final decision, whether approval or rejection, will be made based on the results of the technical evaluation, in accordance with the criteria and guidelines defined by the FSF program, and will be notified via email.

3.3 Requirements for Compliance with the FSF Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (EUPP)

In order to comply with the Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (PUEP) and the current FSF Prohibited Pesticides List, within the framework of internal and certification audit processes, the producing company shall demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

- List of products and active ingredients
  Provide a list of the commercial products and their respective active ingredients used during the evaluated period, as applicable, that are included in the list of active ingredients under

exceptional use.

- Social and environmental risk analysis
  Substantiate, through documented evidence, the risk analysis conducted for each active ingredient under exceptional use, considering the potential social and/or environmental impacts within the specific context of the company. Evidence may include, among others, technical data sheets, safety data sheets (MSDS), technical assessments, scientific literature, and similar documents.

- Risk mitigation plan
  Based on the identified risks, the company shall define and implement specific mitigation measures for each case, demonstrating how such risks will be managed over time. These measures shall ensure proper implementation and allow for verification during internal and certification audit processes.

- Transition plan and evaluation of alternatives
  Considering that the active ingredients included in the exceptional use list are prohibited under international regulations, and recognizing the limited availability of alternatives for chemical control, a transition period is granted. During this period, the company shall implement a plan demonstrating the progressive evaluation of new alternatives to replace the active ingredient under exceptional use, including non-chemical options where applicable.

The information described above shall be duly documented and made available for validation by internal or certification auditors during the execution of the respective audit processes. These conditions must be strictly met to ensure safety, traceability, and sustainability in the production of flowers and ornamental plants:

- Non-compliance with any of the conditions established in the FSF Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (EUPP) will be considered a Level 1 non-conformity, associated with the critical requirements of the Florverde Sustainable Flowers Standard for Sustainable Production of Flowers and Ornamentals.
- Exceptions are granted only for specific combinations of ornamental crop and pest, and are limited to a clearly defined temporary period, as stipulated by the FSF Technical and Administrative Secretariat.
- Only commercial formulations of temporarily authorized active ingredients that hold a valid sanitary registration in the country of production, for the specific crop and pest to be controlled, and that comply with applicable national regulations for agricultural use may be used.
- In countries where the availability of alternatives approved for ornamental use is limited, the company may technically substantiate the use of the active ingredient by providing evidence

of its official approval for ornamental crops and for the specific pest in other countries at the international level, provided that the commercial formulation used holds valid authorization or registration in the country of production, in accordance with national regulations.

- Certified production units must strictly follow the product's usage instructions: official label, dosage, frequency, safety data sheet, product safety label, and all preparation, application, and disposal requirements defined by the manufacturer and national regulations.
- Producers applying active ingredients under this policy must demonstrate technical compliance with the requirements of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and safe agrochemical handling, with special attention to:
  - Phytosanitary prevention and monitoring (Requirements 7.1 to 7.4 of the FSF Standard).
  - Prioritization of non-chemical control methods (Requirement 7.5).
  - Training and provision of adequate personal protective equipment (Requirement 7.20).
  - Compliance with re-entry and pre-harvest intervals (Requirement 7.21).
  - Minimization of drift and improvement in application efficiency (Requirement 7.22).
  - Prohibition of aerial applications unless expressly authorized (Requirement 7.23).
  - Management of empty containers and maintenance of application equipment (Requirements 7.26 and 7.28).
  - Agrochemical storage conditions (Requirements 7.29 to 7.31).

- Active ingredients used must be part of active ingredient rotation strategies, prioritizing molecules with lower toxicity and low potential for resistance development.
- Equipment and application technologies must be selected to maximize efficacy, minimize losses, and reduce drift based on the mode of application and preventive equipment maintenance. Calibrations must be performed periodically, after each maintenance, and before changing active ingredients.
- The use of triazoles via soil application (such as epoxiconazole, propiconazole, among others) in flowers and ornamentals is prohibited due to the high risk of soil contamination and the low specificity of this type of application.
- Certified producers using active ingredients under exceptional use shall prepare a consolidated annual report on their use, which shall be made available during internal or certification audits, in accordance with the applicable timelines.
- Certification Bodies (CBs) shall verify, during certification audits, compliance with the requirements related to the FSF Exceptional Use of Pesticides Policy (EUPP). This review includes evaluating usage records, supporting technical documentation, and corresponding authorizations, ensuring that any exception is properly justified and documented.

4. Risk Mitigation Measures

The proposed risk mitigation measures, they are divided as follows:

4.1 Requirements for Managing Risks Associated with Biodiversity in Flowers and Ornamentals

- Areas of high ecological value within and around the property are identified and protected, including water bodies, forest remnants, biological corridors, among others.
- Habitat fragmentation is avoided through land-use planning that preserves connectivity between natural areas, where applicable.
- Invasive or exotic species are monitored and controlled when technically viable to mitigate disruption of the natural ecosystem composition or ornamental crops.
- Vegetative perimeter barriers are used to reduce agrochemical drift toward conservation zones or nearby ecosystems.
- Native species are planted in areas of the farm where space is available and technically feasible to protect pollinators. If the farm lacks suitable non-productive areas for conservation plantings, partnerships with other entities may be established to jointly promote these conservation areas.
- Periodic monitoring of wildlife present as an indicator of functional biodiversity is conducted, including birds, beneficial insects, and small mammals.

4.2 Managing Risks Associated with Substances with Acute or Chronic Toxicity

- Pregnant or lactating women at risk may not participate in the application or remain nearby during treatment with these active ingredients.
- The use of PPE is mandatory as indicated by the product label or safety data sheet.
- Re-entry periods (REI) are applied based on the product's technical information. When combining products with different REIs, the longest period is respected.

4.3 Managing Risks from Substances Toxic to Pollinators

- If hives are present on the premises, whether for beneficial use or naturally identified, their protection must be ensured without posing risks to workers or affecting production. If applicable, hives must be temporarily covered during required activities, and measures must be implemented to ensure their integrity and well-being.
- Floral strips or native vegetation are established on borders or external zones to favor beneficial insects and stabilize the agroecosystem.
- Application schedules for products are considered to minimize impact on pollinators from a technical standpoint.
- Chemical risk groups are sensitized about the effects of pesticides on pollinators and safe application methods.