

Emergency registration of strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control

Not all areas of the province will have access to strychnine under this Emergency Use Registration. In those areas the province has committed to continue to support Richardson's ground squirrel management through: Extension and education efforts; The Gopher Control Program, which helps offset the cost of registered alternatives to strychnine and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation programs.

As of April 2, 2026 there were no stocks of strychnine available for distribution in Canada. They expect to require approximately six to eight weeks to import the active ingredient, manufacture the 2% liquid strychnine concentrate, and distribute the product across Saskatchewan and Alberta.

STRYCHNINE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABE THROUGH THIS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

All users will be required to complete mandatory training on species-at-risk protection, strychnine use restrictions and pesticide safety. The program includes: In burrow application with mandatory covering of treated burrows to reduce access by non-target species; Carcass monitoring and collection (daily for the first week, then weekly for three additional weeks), with carcasses disposed of by burial or incineration; Screening for species at risk, with high risk areas avoided unless appropriate mitigation measures can be demonstrated and Comprehensive record keeping, including sales, use, and monitoring, along with field and records audits to ensure compliance.

SARM and your local RM will provide details as they become available.