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Pest bird control: bait / toxin products

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Pest bird control: bait/toxin products

DPIRD-185

This factsheet provides information on the bait, poison and toxin (bait) products available for use in Western Australia (WA) to control pest birds.



Image 1: Starlings on a branch

Under WA legislation, only declared animals can be eliminated under a pest control program and only by a control method prescribed by the law. Refer to animal welfare on the website at dpiird.wa.gov.au for details on how and why a pest needs to be declared before being baited.

Information on bait, poison, and toxin (bait) products available for use in WA, relevant to pest birds, is provided below.

Pest birds

Many pest bird species are declared under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007*.

The Western Australian Organism List (WAOL), available on the department website at dpir.wa.gov.au, contains information on the area(s) in which a bird species has been declared and the control and keeping categories to which it has been assigned in WA. However, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has baits registered for use against only a few declared pest birds. They are:

- sparrows (*Passer domesticus* and *Passer montanus*)
- starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Indian mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*)
- emus (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*).



Image 2: A group of emus running along the State Barrier Fence

Pest bird control

Control of pest bird options are shooting, trapping, fencing, and/or use of chemical bait products.

Bait/toxin products

Several bait products are registered through the APVMA for use on pest birds. These products contain either 4-aminopyridine (Table 1) or alpha-chloralose (Table 2) as their active ingredient. One bait product containing strychnine is registered for use on emus (Table 3).

Alpha-chloralose

Two alpha-chloralose products are registered for use in WA on pest birds (Table 1).

Alpha-chloralose is a hypnotic compound with anaesthetic properties. It has been used for general anaesthesia in laboratory animals and as an avicide and rodenticide overseas.

Access to this chemical is restricted in WA. It is a Schedule 6 poison and a restricted chemical product and can only be supplied to or used by an authorised person. Only licensed pest management technicians with a licence endorsement of 'Feral pigeons' and alpha-chloralose printed on their plastic licence may access this chemical.

Most pigeons are not declared pests and therefore no defences exist for acts of cruelty in controlling pigeons under animal welfare laws.

People seeking to use this product to control starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) or sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*) need to apply to APVMA (apvma.gov.au) for a permit.

Table 1: Manufacturers/distributors of alpha-chloralose products for pest birds. Refer to product label for target species (current November 2024)

Products	Manufacturers/distributors
<u>ALDI Alphachloralose bird control agent</u>	<u>ALDI GC Pty Ltd</u>
<u>Rentokil Alphachloralose bird control agent</u>	<u>Rentokil Initial Pty Ltd</u>

Strychnine

One strychnine product is registered for use on emus in WA (Table 3).

Strychnine is a colourless and crystalline substance that interferes with the central nervous system. Most vertebrates are highly sensitive to strychnine.

Strychnine is a Schedule 7 poison. Its use and supply in WA are bound by the Code of practice for safe use and management of registered pesticides containing 1080, Strychnine, PAPP (health.wa.gov.au). Strychnine is only available to authorised suppliers and users who are trained to handle it safely. Refer to Pesticides used in the management of vertebrate pests, on the website at dpird.wa.gov.au.

Table 3: Manufacturers/distributors of strychnine products for emus (current November 2024)

Products	Manufacturers/distributors
<u>4Farmers Strychnine Alkaloid Crystals for the control of Wild Dogs and Emus</u>	<u>4Farmers</u>

More information

Refer to the department website at dpird.wa.gov.au for more information about the following:

- Managing pest birds and emus
- Pest birds
- Baits and poisons
- Registered pesticide permits
- State Barrier Fence

Other resources

PestSmart: pest birds (pestsmart.org.au)

PUBCRIS or Permits database for the most recent information on individual baits or poisons
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) (apvma.gov.au)

Contact us

Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS)

+61 8 9368 3080 | Email PaDIS (padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

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