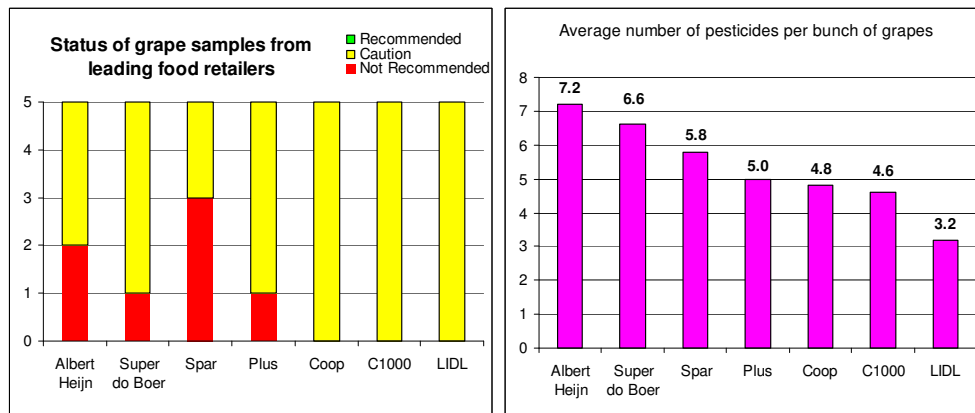


NETHERLANDS

Analysis of grapes sold by leading food retailers

All 35 samples of grapes purchased in Netherlands were contaminated with pesticides. On average 5.3 different pesticides were detected per sample of grapes. Over half of grape samples contained five or more pesticides. Thirty eight different pesticide substances were detected in total.



Seven samples of grapes (20%) were classified as 'Not Recommended' under the Greenpeace evaluation system, while 28 samples received 'Caution' status – denoting contamination. None of the grape samples were classified as 'Recommended'.

Which supermarkets sold the best grapes?

LIDL, C1000 and Coop all performed comparatively well with no grapes receiving 'Not Recommended' status under the Greenpeace evaluation system. The same three supermarkets also showed lower average numbers of pesticides per sample than the others. LIDL performed best with an average 3.2 pesticides per sample.

Which supermarkets sold the worst grapes?

Spar and Albert Heijn both performed badly. Spar showed the highest number of 'red' samples with three out of five grape samples receiving 'Not Recommended' status. Albert Heijn showed the second highest number of 'red' grapes, as well as the highest average number of pesticides per sample.

Which supermarket sold the bunch of grapes with the highest total number of pesticides?

The grape sample with the highest number of pesticides was purchased from Albert Heijn and contained 15 different pesticides. These grapes were grown in Greece. Other grapes containing high numbers of pesticides include a sample with 13 pesticides bought from Super de Boer, and grapes containing 11 pesticides bought from Spar.

LIDL: delivering on commitments

In Netherlands, LIDL promises customers extra high standards on pesticides. According to LIDL's own commitments, no food products sold in Netherlands will contain pesticides at concentrations above one third of the legal maximum. Analysis of all pesticide present in grapes purchased from LIDL found no residues present above 12% of the maximum residue limit. The average pesticide concentration was 1.6% of the legal limit. These grapes indicate that LIDL is delivering on its commitment.

Super de Boer: failing to deliver on commitments

Super de Boer promises customers that no foods will contain pesticides at concentrations above 50% of the legal maximum. Analysis of all pesticide present in grapes purchased from Super de Boer found that two grape samples contained residues above this level. The grapes, both from Greece, contained the insecticide at 55% and 65% of the maximum legal limit. These grapes indicate that Super de Boer is not delivering on its commitment. Also, the supermarket pledged to reduce the number of pesticides on food produce. With a maximum of 13 pesticides per sample and an average 6.6, the suppliers of Super de Boer fail to conform to this commitment.

Proposals for an EU blacklist

Four pesticides detected among the grape samples purchased in Netherlands would be withdrawn from use in food production if current proposals for an EU blacklist of hazardous pesticides are adopted by the European Union. These pesticides are carbendazim (mutagen, reproductive toxin), and bifenthrin, fenarimol and lambda cyhalothrin (all endocrine disruptors). Grape samples containing these pesticides were purchased from Albert Heijn, C1000, Coop, Plus, Spar and Super de Boer.