



Australian Government

**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**



Quick reference guide

Boolean search

2024

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Getting started – PubCRIS Boolean search

You can get greater search functionality out of PubCRIS depending on how you search.

A 'Boolean' search uses:

- Search modifiers e.g. ?, * or
- Operators such as 'AND', 'OR' and 'NOT'

This specifically tells PubCRIS what to, or not to, search for.

An example of an 'AND' search

Type <insert field name> followed by colon ":" <insert value> AND <insert field name>:<insert value>

Search products

Keywords (required):

Product, ID, registrant, pest, host, or active. Searches on phrases s

Advanced search ▲

An example of an 'OR' search

Search products

Keywords (required):

Product, ID, registrant, pest, host, or active. Searches on phrases

Note: Use double quotation marks to search phrases.

An example of a 'NOT' search

Search products

Keywords (required):

Product, ID, registrant, pest, host, or active. Searches on phrases

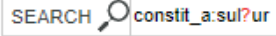

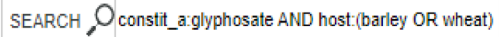
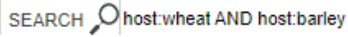
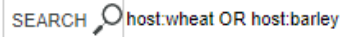

Advanced search ▲

Note: In this example, the search will bring up products for use in dogs not against pest wild dogs.

If you search for a keyword, it will match this keyword **as written**, unless you indicate otherwise.

E.g. A search for 'glyphosate' gives 0 results. Correct spelling 'glyphosate' gives 500+ results.

Quick steps

Symbol	Search modifiers	
?	Single character wildcard.	? subs in for one particular letter. This can be useful where names are commonly mistaken or appear differently. For example, 'sulfur' and 'sulphur'. 
*	Multiple characters (matches zero or more sequential characters)	* is a wildcard — which covers alternatives at the beginning or end of a word, eg. 'straw*' will provide different options of straw, strawberry and straw berries. 
()	Parentheses or 'circle brackets' Use to group searches to form 'sub-queries'.	() Using parentheses – This allows you to form 'sub-queries' or group searches within your search e.g. 'constit_a:glyphosate AND host:(barley OR wheat)' will search the hosts barely or wheat. 
Symbol	Boolean operators – Note: When searching make sure you use spaces alongside the 'AND', 'NOT' or 'OR'.	
AND	Requires both terms on either side of the Boolean operator to be present for a match.	If you were only after results mentioning both wheat AND barley, you could type: 
OR	Requires that either term (or both terms) be present for a match.	An OR search term will allow you to search for different keywords within pubCRIS. 
NOT	Requires that the following term not be present.	If you wanted results regarding wheat but NOT barley, the search could be: 

Advanced search – field names

Field names can be used in combination with Boolean Operators to achieve advanced search functionality.

Type *<insert field name>* followed by colon ":" *<insert value>* *<Boolean operator>* *<insert field name>*:*<insert value>*

Field	Description	Syntax – Copy and Paste Note: edit the plum text as required, typing one entry per field name
category	To generate a list of AG, VET product or Active constituent.	category: agricultural, a, veterinary, listed, medicine, pesticide, vetchem, vm, active
company	To search for a specific company which has registered a product/active.	company: name of company
constit_a	Active constituent	constit_a: glyphosate
constit_o	Other constituents e.g. scheduled liquid hydrocarbons	constit_o: hydrocarbon,liquid, solvent

Field	Description	Syntax – Copy and Paste Note: edit the plum text as required, typing one entry per field name
constit_suggest_a	Refined search for actives, excludes results for active salts, active compounds, e.g. 'constit_suggest_a:glyphosate' will only give entries for 'glyphosate' NOT 'glyphosate present as the isopropylamine salt'.	constit_suggest_a:glyphosate
count_protected	The number of protected data items currently applied to the product/active. E.g. count_protected:8 would give the products that each have 8 data items exactly.	count_protected:0,1,2
fcode	Formulation code provides products with only the searched formulation type e.g. 'fcode:EC' provides results for emulsifiable concentrate products.	fcode:00,EC,SC,WG Search the APVMA website for more codes.
host	Allows you to search for the host without bringing up products that are not used for that host. E.g. 'Dog' might be in the product name of an herbicide (for plant hosts) or a pest (wild dog).	host:dog means we are searching for products that are for use in dogs.
name	Search for a specific aspect of a product name. Can be used to refine search results. E.g. trifluralin NOT name:500, brings up results of trifluralin products which do not have '500' in the product name.	name:component of product name
pest	Allows you to search for products used against that pest.	pest:mites
psched	Search for poison schedule. Note: '0' is an unscheduled product.	psched:0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
regcode	Search for registration status. Note: All PubCRIS filters must be removed before searching and click yes to continue.	regcode:R,X,A,S,Y,D,H R- registered (products), X – archived, A – approved (actives), S – stopped, Y – cancelled, D – cancelled (older products), H – suspended
regstate	Search for state of product registration.	regstate:NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS, NT, ACT
text	Search for specific text on the label. E.g. The search 'host:wheat NOT text:barley' will bring up products for use in wheat but not barley.	text:text that is on the product label

Getting started – Permits Boolean Search

You can get greater search functionality out of Permits Search depending on how you search.

A “Boolean” search uses:

- Search modifiers e.g. ?, * or
- Operators such as ‘AND’, ‘OR’ and ‘NOT’

This specifically tells Permits Search what to, or not to, search for.

An example of an ‘AND’ search

Type <insert field name> followed by colon “:” < INSERT VALUE > AND <insert field name>:<INSERT VALUE>

Search permits
Keywords (required):

Permit no, description, active, crop/animal, or pest/purpose

Note: CAPITALISE your values. Field names do not need to be capitalised.

An example of an ‘OR’ search

Search permits
Keywords (required):

Permit no, description, active, crop/animal, or pest/purpose

An example of a ‘NOT’ search

Search permits
Keywords (required):

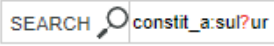

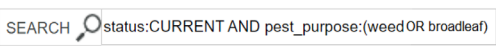
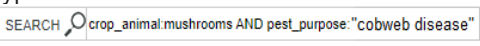

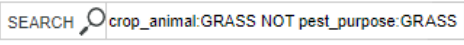
Permit no, description, active, crop/animal, or pest/purpose
Advanced search ▲

Note: In this example, the search will bring up permits that are NOT expired or surrendered i.e. they will be CURRENT permits.

If you search for a keyword, it will match this keyword **as written**, unless you indicate otherwise.

E.g. A search for ‘glyphosate’ gives 0 results. Correct spelling ‘glyphosate’ gives 500+ results.

Quick steps

Symbol	Search modifiers	
?	Single character wildcard.	<p>? subs in for one particular letter. This can be useful where names are commonly mistaken or appear differently. For example, 'sulfur' and 'sulphur'.</p> 
*	Multiple characters (matches zero or more sequential characters)	<p>* is a wildcard — which covers alternatives at the beginning or end of a word, eg. 'straw*' will provide different options of straw, strawberry and straw berries.</p> 
()	Parentheses or 'circle brackets' Use to group searches to form 'sub-queries'.	<p>() Using parentheses – This allows you to form 'sub-queries' or group searches within your search e.g. 'status:CURRENT AND pest_purpose:(weed OR broadleaf)' will search current permits for the pests weed or broadleaf.</p> 
Symbol	Boolean operators – Note: When searching make sure you use spaces alongside the 'AND', 'NOT' or 'OR'.	
AND	Requires both terms on either side of the Boolean operator to be present for a match.	<p>If you were only after results mentioning both mushroom AND cobweb disease, you could type:</p> 
OR	Requires that either term (or both terms) be present for a match.	<p>An OR search term will allow you to search for different keywords within Permits Search</p> 
NOT	Requires that the following term not be present.	<p>If you wanted results regarding the crop grass but NOT pest grass, the search could be:</p> 

Advanced search – field names

Field names can be used in combination with Boolean Operators to achieve advanced search functionality.

Type *<insert field name>* followed by colon ":" *<insert value>* *<Boolean operator>* *<insert field name>*:*<insert value>*

Field	Description	Syntax – Copy and Paste Note: edit the plum text as required, typing one entry per field name
constituent	Permits with the active constituent you want to use.	constituent:glyphosate, dicamba etc.
crop_animal	Permits with the animal/crop you are trying to protect.	crop_animal: dog, protected, flower, trees, ornamental, nursery, pasture, fruit, cattle, cotton, lettuce etc.
description	Permits with the keyword you wish to search	description:weed, vaccine, control, grass, fruit, crop, disease, glyphosate, fungicide, mildew etc.
number	Search by the Permit number E.g. Search 'number:PER93749'	number:PERXXXXX

Field	Description	Syntax – Copy and Paste Note: edit the plum text as required, typing one entry per field name
pest_purpose	Permits with the pest/ purpose for using the permit	pest_purpose:weed, ringworm, vaccine, grass, mildew, streptococcus, broadleaf, mite, thrip, tick etc.
status	Status of the permit – is it current, expired or surrendered, cancelled or suspended. Note: This search is case sensitive - capitalise the search value.	status:CURRENT, EXPIRED, SURRENDERED, CANCELLED, SUSPENDED
text	Search for specific text on the permit. E.g. The search 'text:vaccine' will bring up the permits with the word vaccine included.	text:weed, vaccine, fruit, grass, crop, salt etc.
type	Search for permit type. 'AG' is agricultural, VET is veterinary, 'BOTH' is for permits that are both agricultural and veterinary permits.	type:AG,VET,BOTH
state_act	To (or not to) search for permits for use in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Note: All state filters must be removed before searching.	state_act:true,false
state_all	To (or not to) search for permits for use in all Australian jurisdictions. Note: A 'true' value search of this field name will include Victoria. All state filters must be removed before searching.	state_all:true,false
state_nsw	To (or not to) search for permits for use in the New South Wales (NSW).	state_nsw:true,false
state_nt	To (or not to) search for permits for use in the Northern Territory (NT).	state_nt:true,false
state_qld	To (or not to) search for permits for use in Queensland (QLD).	state_qld:true,false
state_sa	To (or not to) search for permits for use in South Australia (SA).	state_sa:true,false
state_tas	To (or not to) search for permits for use in Tasmania (TAS).	state_tas:true,false
state_vic	To (or not to) search for permits for use in Victoria (VIC). Note: Victoria is often not included in some permits as Victoria's Control-of-Use legislation means a permit is not required to legalise some off-label use in Victoria.	state_vic:true,false
state_wa	To (or not to) search for permits for use in Western Australia (WA).	state_wa:true,false