

## PESTICIDE REGULATION POLICY STATEMENT

as of January 10, 2018

### Core Principle

Pesticides, whether organic or conventional, are used for control of disease, invasive vineyard vegetation, harmful insects and other grapevine pests. Pesticide use is heavily regulated and education is required. The Washington wine industry is proactive regarding education of handlers on safe, minimal use of pesticides. Washington Winegrowers (Winegrowers) promotes use of integrated pest management programs.

### Issue

Exposure to pesticides that occurs during crop application can create hazards for human and animal health. Pesticide drift of chemicals applied to neighboring crops can cause severe damage to vineyards, resulting in crop loss, reduction of grape and juice quality, and damage to the vines that affect future grape production.

Existing Washington State law mandates handling, transportation, storage, disposal, user licensing, and recordkeeping rules for pesticide application. However, legislative proposals are regularly introduced that would create additional requirements for pesticide users.

Additional restrictive use of pesticides will result in costly and time-consuming requirements for winegrape growers.

### Rationale

The use of pesticides is necessary to maintain the quality and quantity of crops customers have come to expect from Washington agriculture from pests and disease that occur differently each season.

Pesticides include fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and nematicides. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established a list of restricted use pesticides.

Washington State law (WAC 16-228-1220) establishes careful handling, storage, and disposal of pesticides, and restricts pesticide application to minimize the potential for drift. Commercial and private applicators are required to be licensed to apply restricted use pesticides on agricultural commodities, including winegrapes. Record keeping is required for all pesticide applications to more than one acre of agricultural land in a calendar year (RCW 17.21.100). Rules established under WAC 16-233-125 and 16-223-215 require agricultural employers to provide notification to employees prior to pesticide application.

Pre-license, recertification and safety training for pesticide applicators and agricultural workers is available in both English and Spanish through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Washington State University. Winegrowers regularly notifies members about upcoming training opportunities and also sponsors opportunities.

Application of pesticides is expensive, and it is an economical incentive for growers to use pesticides as absolutely necessary and to seek complimentary means of pest control through integrated pest management programs that take advantage of beneficial insects and ground cover.