



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol St NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532

## Pesticide Advisory Notice The Importance of Preventing Drift - Sensitivity of Grapes



In Oregon, wine grapes are being planted into areas that traditionally have been field crops, Christmas trees, or pastures. Grapes particularly are sensitive to some of the herbicides used in these other crops, including the phenoxy herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D and MCPP). Herbicide drift can injure foliage, shoots, flowers, and fruits. The introduction and expansion of commercial grape crops into these areas require that growers openly communicate with each other to ensure that all crops in an area can be produced without conflict.

If you plan to use an ester formulation of a phenoxy herbicide near a vineyard, talk to the nearby vineyard owner/manager. Find out if the grapes are at a particularly vulnerable growth stage, learn about how to minimize risks, and consider using alternative products. If you are a grape grower, share information regarding your crop with your neighboring growers (often multi-generational family farmers who may not be familiar with growing grapes) and help be part of the solution.

It is important to keep pesticides on their intended site of application. It is the responsibility of the pesticide user to fully learn about the properties of the pesticides used, including the potential to drift or volatilize. Drift can be minimized in a number of ways, including, but not limited to: reducing spray pressure, lowering boom height, using drift-reduction nozzles or certain spray adjuvants or selecting low or nonvolatile pesticides. Pesticide users should also learn about the factors which may influence drift, including: temperature, relative humidity, air flow patterns, temperature inversions and topography.

It also is critical that there is good communication between growers and hired commercial applicators. Growers should communicate information regarding nearby sensitive crops; this will allow the hired commercial applicator to take the necessary precautions.

It is all about common sense, good communication, being a good neighbor and having enough information to make informed decisions.

For more information:

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbook: Agrichemicals and Their Properties  
<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/sites/default/files/chapters/pdf/c-properties.pdf>

Preventing Herbicide Drift and Injury to Grapes EM 8860 Revised February 2014  
<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/45880/em8860.pdf>

LEARN ◆ COMMUNICATE ◆ MUTUAL RESPECT ◆ SUSTAINABILITY

May 6, 2014

