

INDUSTRY NOTICE

25 October 2023

ETHEPHON TRIAL REBATE SCHEME

Vinehealth Australia provides the following information to South Australian winegrape growers on behalf of PIRSA, an opportunity to participate in a trial to reduce crop load for vintage 2024.

Provision of this information is not considered an endorsement by Vinehealth of the application of Ethephon, rather, Vinehealth highly encourages all interested growers to read all documentation carefully and to seek further technical information as required, before participating.

[PIRSA announced yesterday](#) a new 'Resting Red Wine Vines' rebate scheme targeted to assist South Australian growers who do not have vintage 2024 grape contracts secured for red winegrapes. The rebate is being offered to growers to apply Ethephon, a plant growth regulator, in line with the trial permit, to aid bunch removal for vintage 2024 and reduce further seasonal block management costs.

This scheme is being offered on the back of a single year's trial results in 2022-23, where application of Ethephon to Shiraz in the Riverland at the end of flowering (between E-L 25 to E-L 27) was shown to reduce crop load by up to 90% as a result of disrupting fruit set. Trial work is being conducted by SARDI and DPI NSW in partnership with Wine Australia and will continue for another two seasons.

APPLICATION OF ETHEPHON

Based on trial results conducted in 2022-23, a number of application criteria were identified as critical to achieving desired results and form part of the current trial permit [PER92913](#). These included:

- Adherence to label rates
- 1 application only in the season
- Application between E-L 25 (80% caps off) and E-L 27 (Setting; young berries >2mm, bunch at right angles to stem); with E-L 25 most effective
- Addition of a non-ionic wetting agent applied at label rates
- Application to the point of runoff, and targeted at the bunch zone where there is a defined bunch zone
- Thorough washing of spray carts post application to ensure no carryover onto non-target blocks

Refer to the [Technical Fact Sheet](#) compiled by the researchers for trial results and tips for Ethephon use. Refer to the current [APVMA Ethephon trial permit](#) for applicable product label rates.

For technical advice on Ethephon, contact the AWRI Help Desk on 08 8313 6600 or helpdesk@awri.com.au.

ABOUT PIRSA'S RESTING RED WINE VINES REBATE SCHEME

- PIRSA is funding rebates to eligible growers for the application of up to 5,000 hectares of Ethephon for 2023-24 within the scope of a state trial
- Growers participating in the trial can apply for a rebate of \$40 per hectare sprayed to cover the cost of Ethephon, up to 1,000 hectares per ABN

Participating growers must adhere to [PIRSA's Vineyard Resting Rebate Guidelines 2023-24](#).

HOW TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN PIRSA'S ETHEPHON TRIAL

- Growers can register their interest in the trial with PIRSA, or seek further information by emailing PIRSA.AgFoodandWine@sa.gov.au
- Access to the rebate scheme is via completion of an iApply application form [here](#), *which opens at the end of October*
- Growers must wait at least 7 days after the application of Ethephon to apply for the rebate
- Official invoices and evidence of payment for purchase of Ethephon will be required, as will be documenting the Ethephon application in your Spray Diary
- Applications for the rebate will close at 5pm (ACST) on 31 January 2024 or until the 5,000 hectare cap is reached

For a summary of PIRSA's Ethephon rebate scheme, [click here](#).