



BRITISH COLUMBIA
GRAPEGROWERS'
ASSOCIATION

News & Updates!

September 2016

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Health
Canada

ADVISORY

Health Canada is advising Canadians to stop using pesticides that contain **malathion** when products are **older than one year** due to chemical changes in the product over time. In Canada, malathion is a registered insecticide mainly used to control insects in agriculture, but it can also be used in and around the home. When used according to label directions, malathion is effective in killing mosquitoes and other pests without posing unacceptable risks to human health or the environment.

However, over time, a toxic chemical called isomalathion can naturally form in malathion products, particularly when they are stored at elevated temperatures. After storage for more than a year, it's possible that levels of isomalathion could become a concern, even when containers are stored correctly.

What you should do – Make sure any products containing malathion are stored in a cool (around 20-23°C), dry, well-ventilated place away from seed, fertilizer, or other pesticides for no longer than one year.

Commercial Users – As most end-use products are formulated to be stable over a reasonable amount of time, Health Canada does not object to the use of malathion products that are older than one year when all of the following criteria are met:

- An accredited laboratory test results show that the malathion remains within accepted standards (for example, it meets the World Health Organization specifications - http://www.who.int/whopes/quality/en/Malathion_july04.pdf);
- The test results are maintained for compliance verification purposes; and
- The product continues to be used in accordance with the other label directions (including storage conditions).

Report health or safety concerns – Report any adverse events to the manufacturer, who is required by law to report to Health Canada. You may also report an incident directly to Health Canada by completing an incident report form.

What Health Canada is doing – Health Canada will be working with the manufacturers to modify the labels of products that contain malathion to include date information, and the requirement for laboratory testing beyond this date to ensure the product is within acceptable specifications.

CONTACT US!

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FREE TRAINING & RESOURCES

AgSafe provides free training and resources to its members. For more information, visit their website at www.agsafebc.ca or contact their office by e-mail at contact@agsafebc.ca



Starling Control Program Contributors

The Starling Control Program continues to receive funding and volunteer support from the three **Regional Districts**, as well as the **City of West Kelowna**, the **BC Cherry Association**, the **BC Fruit Growers' Association**, the **BC Tree Fruit Cooperative**, and **YOU, the BC Grapegrowers' Association**. Private fruit packing facilities and bakeries also donate fruit and bread that is used for bait in the traps.

Funding from the Regional Districts is dependent upon agriculture's proven financial support of the program. If we do not show our support of the program, the Regional Districts will drop their support.

This is why we are so grateful for those listed below, who have supported the program this year. They truly are the ones who keep the program alive and working!

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Andrew Peller

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Stahl Vineyard
Stonehouse Vineyards
Sumac Slope Vineyard
Sunshine Acres
Tightrope Winery
Turtlerock Farms
Wendenburg Vineyard
Willow Hill Wines Inc
Windy Ridge Vineyard*

**** Our thanks to those who have contributed above and beyond the suggested \$10/planted acre ****

Why not add your name to the list? It's easy...

ONLINE: go to www.grapegrowers.bc.ca, click on Starling Control, then on SCP Donations

MAIL: send your contribution to PO Box 42, Grand Forks, BC, V0H 1H0

Here are some of the **Starling Control Program** benefits:

- A reduction in the use of propane cannons & other birds scaring devices
- A reduction in the cost of bird control measures for growers and farmers
- A reduction in the amount of bird damage to crops
- A return of native songbirds to the region

In 2017, the preliminary base rate for vineyards will be \$1.56 per \$100 payroll (\$1.57 in 2015). Individual employers will pay varying amounts based on their *experience rating*, which could be as low as \$0.78 (50% discount) or as high as \$3.12 (100% surcharge). New businesses start at the base rate and, over time, can earn discounts or incur surcharges based on how they compare with other businesses.

For each business, the following is used to determine their experience rating:

- Claim costs for the past three years
- The size of the business, based on payroll
- Comparison of the claim costs per dollar of payroll, to the industry average

Towards the end of each year, employers will receive notice of the finalized industry base rate for the following year as well as their individual experience ratings.

How can you lower cost? Preventing injuries and minimizing claims costs (if there is an injury), are the best ways to keep your insurance costs low. If all vineyards improve as a whole, then the industry base rate will also decrease over time. The following two organizations are funded through your WorkSafe BC premiums to help you prevent injuries and reduce claims costs:

- **AgSafe** - (the health and safety association for your industry). For health and safety information specific to vineyards and agricultural businesses, visit their website at www.agsafebc.ca
- **Employers' Advisors Office** – For general health and safety and claim management information, as well as free seminars in the province – visit their website at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employers/employers-advisers-office>



Groundwater Licensing Requirements for BC Farms and Vineyards

As of 29 February 2016, the new regulations of the *BC Water Sustainability Act* state that all non-domestic groundwater wells have to be licensed. The *Groundwater Licence Application* includes a series of questions related to the water works infrastructure and the hydro-geological setting (aquifer description, well details, estimated yield, etc.), and is submitted to the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO).

If you apply for a licence before March 1, 2017, the BC government will waive the licence application fee. The application fee can range from \$250 to \$10,000 per well depending on the water used by the grower. If you need to apply for a groundwater licence, Waterline Resources Inc. can help you. A professional hydro-geologist will gather the required application information and submit a package to the BC Ministry of FLNRO on your behalf for a small licensing service fee.

For more information, contact Maheen Scott by e-mail at maheen.scott@waterlinerresources.com or by telephone at 250-585-0802.



Enology & Viticulture Conference

The 17th Annual BC Wine Grape Council's Enology and Viticulture Conference attracted over 330 delegates and tradeshow visitors, 100 plus exhibitors, close to 40 speakers to the two-day conference and tradeshow on 18-19 July 2016. Speakers delivered presentations on a wide-range of topics and hailed from the United States, Europe, and Canada. The two sensory tastings focused on Cabernet Franc.

The BC Grapegrowers' Association was once again present at the tradeshow to showcase the benefits of membership. Joanne Bray, one of our starling trappers, also brought her handouts and a miniature trap to bring more awareness to the Starling Control Program. The BCWGC AGM was held on Monday, July 18th prior to the popular social wine and cheese event. The first ever conference app which provided comprehensive conference and tradeshow information on mobile devices was downloaded and used by good number of conference attendees.

Mark your calendars - July 17 and 18, 2017 - for next year's conference.

COR Auditor Training - Now Online

The first of two days of training can now be taken online, at your convenience. Learn at your pace, around your workload, day or night. It has never been easier!

The four, one-hour modules provide the auditing knowledge to complete the one-day practical auditor training. Email cor@agsafebc.ca to register today.



SELLING YOUR GRAPES

All growers are reminded that you should have a written and signed sales agreement with each winery you are selling grapes to. The agreement should list the varieties you will be shipping, specific ranges for quality requirements (Brix, T.A., and pH), the price(s) per ton, and a payment due date. Ideally, you should also receive a bill of lading from the winery or third party hauler that indicates the tonnage(s) or, at least, the variety and number of bins shipped. In the case of a payment dispute or non-payment (which does happen), you will have documentation to show that monies are owed to you and this gives you proof of your legal contractual rights.

BCGA Administrator/Program Manager Position

The BC Grapegrowers' Association is seeking an outgoing, motivated individual to fill a vacancy as the part-time Administrator/Program Manager. Reporting to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the Administrator/Program Manager is responsible for the overall operation of the BCGA. Specific responsibilities include fiscal management of the BCGA programs, accounting and bookkeeping and organising, directing, and administering various BCGA activities.

Working with the Board, this person is a significant contributor to the strategic and business planning of the organisation.

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Experience in administration and management of a non-profit organisation.
- A background and/or interest in a farming related industry.
- Proficiency with a recognized computer accounting program, MS Office programs, Internet media and website maintenance.
- Time management, organizational and analytical skills.
- Excellent presentation, public relations, and verbal and written communication skills along with experience in management/leadership.
- Successful interactions with diverse groups of individuals and organisations and all levels of government.

For a complete Opportunity Profile, please visit our website at

<http://www.grapegrowers.bc.ca/classifieds/administratorprogram-manager-position>

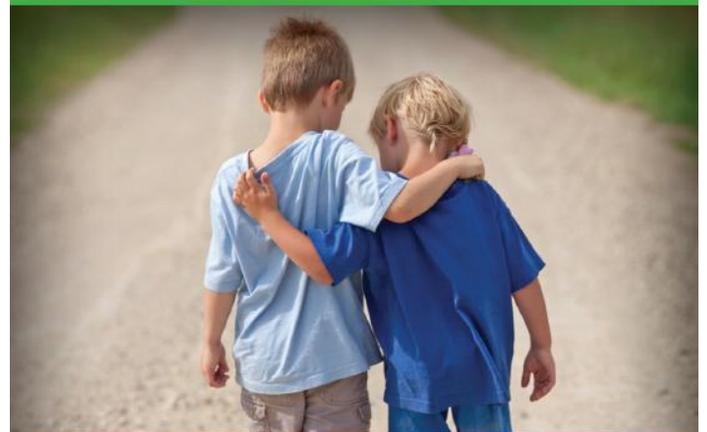
Please forward your cover letter and resume in confidence to Manfred Freese at freesem@eastlink.ca

For more information, call Connie Bielert, at 250-442-8303

Closing date Saturday October 22, 2016



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