

# 1 Introduction

The grape and wine sector in British Columbia has undergone vast transformations over the last few decades, from mostly bulk wine production, based largely on hybrid varieties, to the production of high end, quality wines produced from Vinifera grapes. This evolution has, in part, been mandated by the realization that British Columbia, with a limited supply of good land suited for the production of wine grapes and the relatively high cost of production, can no longer economically compete in the inexpensive bulk wine segment of the market.

The consumer of BC wine is also becoming increasingly sophisticated and is looking for high quality wines of a diversity of styles.

The change in consumer preferences has led the BC grape grower on a quest for the highest quality grape produced at the lowest environmental impact.

This latest revision of the Best Practices Guide for Grapes focuses on growing practices, which lead to high quality grapes, produced in an environmentally sustainable manner, using the principles of Integrated Fruit Production.

## Funding

Thanks are extended to the BC Wine Grape Council.

## Important When Using This Guide

This edition of the production guide contains several new sections as well as revisions to existing sections of the previous Management Guide.

The production guide steering committee welcomes constructive feedback on the content of this publication from growers and industry representatives.

This publication is designed for commercial grape producers and includes currently recommended grape production and pest management practices. Pesticide recommendations are revised annually and include only products that are registered for use in Canada at the time of publication. When planning a pest management program, follow the integrated fruit production (IFP) principles within this guide to avoid unnecessary pesticide sprays.

If the pesticide recommendations on the product label are followed, maximum residue limits on food crops will not be exceeded. Exceeding recommended rates or decreasing the days before harvest can result in high pesticide residues. Crops found with high residues or residues of unregistered pesticides will be seized and destroyed by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada.

For the convenience of growers, trade names are used where appropriate throughout this publication. This does not constitute an endorsement of the product nor a suggestion that like products are not effective. Space limitations restrict the amount of detail contained in this publication.

**Be sure to read the label on the pesticide container for legal restrictions regarding the use of pesticides.**

This publication has been coordinated and edited by the BC Wine Grape Council and by agricultural specialists of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in consultation with industry representatives and other agencies.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the British Columbia Wine Grape Council do not assume liability for crop loss, animal loss, health, safety or environmental hazard caused by the use of products or practices recommended within the guide.

## To Receive Updates

It is essential that users of this guide receive notice of any changes, corrections or additions. Copies of this guide may be purchased from the BC Wine Grape Council, PO Box 1218, Peachland BC V0H 1X7. Telephone: 250-767-2534 Fax: 250-767-0094 or Email: bcwgc@telus.net.

It is the purchaser's responsibility to keep the guide up-to-date.

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Hans Buchler, Chair of the BC Wine Grape Council