

Vineyard Resting Rebate Guidelines 2023/24

February 2024



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Purpose

A rebate scheme to subsidise the purchase of chemical to be used by red wine grape growers who choose to trial a chemical found to put red wine vines into a 'production hold' has been launched for South Australian vignerons. Growers will be eligible for chemical rebates for up to a total of 1000 hectares. Rebates will be available for a total of 5000 hectares.

Research trials completed in 2022-23 by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries in partnership with Wine Australia, demonstrated that under experimental conditions Ethephon (a plant growth regulator), applied at the end of flowering, showed up to a 90% reduction in crop load while maintaining healthy foliage which is vital for the vine to store energy to set itself up for the following season.

Ethephon appears to be an effective chemical option to reduce crop yield. However, the research results are preliminary in nature, being based on one season's data. The long-term effects of these treatments are yet to be determined. All producers must consider their own circumstances before deciding to rest a vineyard and the method used to do so.

A technical fact sheet has been provided and should be read prior to making any decisions. The technical fact sheet provides a step by step guide on implementing the trial on a commercial vineyard. This covers application rates, timing, and considerations for vineyard management. It also outlines the potential risks and knowledge gaps involved in trialling this method. The fact sheet should not be interpreted as a recommendation to adopt this management option.

Given it costs more than \$4,500 per hectare to produce red wine grapes, having an inexpensive alternative to reduce production is very important to vineyard management and helps avoid vineyard removal. Conservative estimates indicate growers could save up to \$2,000/ha in input and vineyard management costs by choosing to apply Ethephon to rest their vineyards. It will also assist them to counter the current oversupply and to buy some time to make future business decisions with more information, support and options.

To assist South Australian vignerons, the Government of South Australia has launched the rebate program to protect the long-term value of the wine industry by reimbursing \$40 per hectare for the cost of Ethephon for growers who choose to trial this method on their vineyards. The purpose of the rebate is to assist growers who choose to trial this novel method of vineyard resting as a management measure.

Growers who wish to apply for the rebate will be required to complete a short questionnaire about their actions and the outcomes. This data will then be aggregated to inform future research priorities, farm management practices and better understand any knowledge gaps.

They will also agree to be contacted post vintage 2024 to provide information of the outcomes of their trials.

Applications for the Vineyard Resting rebate will close at **5.00pm (ACST) on 30 June 2024** or until the 5000 hectare cap is reached.

What information do I need before I apply?

For each vineyard that a grower chooses to trial with this method of vineyard resting, the following information will need to be provided as part of the rebate process.

- ABN
- Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number.
- Vineyard location (address) and Local Government Area.
- Wine Region.
- Number of blocks eligible for the rebate and the total amount of rebate requested.
- A signed acquittal and declaration.
- Official invoices and evidence of payment for purchase of Ethephon (e.g. receipts or bank statements).
- Answer the following question for each block eligible for rebate.
 - Grape Variety
 - Area
 - Clone
 - Own Roots or Rootstock (type)
 - Application Date
 - Photo of inflorescences in the canopy at application (to confirm phenology)
 - Photo of the remaining bunches least 7 days post application (to confirm effectiveness)
 - Average yield from this block over the last five years.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Resting Red Vine Wines rebate is available to South Australian vignerons who have purchased Ethephon and implemented the trial on their commercial vineyard. Applicants must:

- Hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Have an active Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number.
- Have a commercial vineyard located within South Australia.
- Provide copies of official invoices, receipts and proof of payment for the purchase of the Ethephon chemical.
- Have a spray diary documenting the Ethephon application.

Who is ineligible to apply?

- South Australian vignerons who do not hold an ABN and/or do not have an active Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number.
- The commercial vineyard is not located in South Australia.

What is eligible for the rebate?

- The Rebate is available to growers who choose to trial resting vineyard blocks with an application of Ethephon ahead of the 2024 vintage.

What is ineligible for the rebate?

- Labour costs or any costs (including contractor and equipment hire) for the application of the chemical.

How do I apply?

Applicants are required to complete an online form to submit their rebate application.

Only one application form per ABN will be accepted. All claims must be supported by full evidence of payment (official tax invoices and official receipts).

Applicants must submit an online application together with all supporting documentation to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) using the electronic application form available at the PIRSA website: https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/funding_and_support/funding/vineyard_rebate_for_ethephon_trial.

It is anticipated that rebate outcomes will be advised approximately four weeks from the date of receiving the application.

Upon submitting the online electronic application form, you will be provided with an application receipt number. This number should be used when contacting the department with any questions or clarifications.

Successful applicants

An agreement will be entered into with the successful applicant to provide the rebate.

<p>More information</p> <p>For more information prior to submission please contact:</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries and Regions</p> <p>Phone: 1800 931 314</p> <p>Email: PIRSA.GrantsEnquiries@sa.gov.au.</p>	<p>Lodging applications</p> <p>Online application form must be completed.</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------