



Re-entry periods after vineyard sprays

The 2016/2017 edition of *Agrochemicals registered for use in Australian viticulture* (also known as the 'Dog Book') for the first time features guidelines about re-entry into vineyards after agrochemicals have been applied. This column summarises some common questions about vineyard re-entry periods.



Q: THE DOG BOOK NOW PROVIDES GUIDELINES ABOUT RE-ENTRY PERIODS. WHAT EXACTLY IS A RE-ENTRY PERIOD?

A re-entry period is the minimum amount of time that must pass between when an agrochemical is applied in the vineyard and when that vineyard can be entered without protective clothing and equipment.

Q: DOES THE RE-ENTRY PERIOD LISTED IN THE DOG BOOK APPLY TO ALL PRODUCTS WITH THAT ACTIVE CONSTITUENT?

No. A recent review of product labels by the AWRI showed that re-entry periods can vary across different products even when the active constituent is the same. The tables in the *Dog Book* only list the most stringent re-entry requirements on product labels for the active constituent. The labels were accessed from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website. The review showed that it is common for re-entry intervals for the same active constituent to vary and highlights the need to always check the label of the product and follow the directions.

Q: WHY IS IT THAT PRODUCTS WITH THE SAME ACTIVE CONSTITUENT CAN HAVE DIFFERENT RE-ENTRY PERIODS?

It is common for products with the same active constituent to come in different forms such as wettable granules or suspension concentrates and the re-entry requirements can be affected by how the product is formulated. For example, an organic solvent used in one product may increase the skin sensitivity to that product and require a longer period before re-entry is permitted.

Q: WHY DO SOME LABELS HAVE A LONGER RE-ENTRY PERIOD THAN THE WITHHOLDING PERIOD (WHP) FOR HARVEST?

This is unusual but can occasionally occur, because of the different ways re-entry periods and withholding periods are calculated. The re-entry period is based on potential skin

exposure in the vineyard (the APVMA uses the US EPA crop re-entry calculator), whereas the WHP is based on potential residues on the fruit and their toxicity if consumed. If access to the vineyard is required before the re-entry period has been satisfied, for instance for grape sampling or harvest, appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn.

Q: TO WHOM DO RE-ENTRY PERIODS APPLY, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

The re-entry interval applies to anyone who enters a sprayed vineyard. The intervals are in place to protect people from exposure to agrochemicals that can occur by inhalation or skin contact if a treated area is entered too soon after application. A person can be exposed to spray residue through a range of means including: inhalation of vapour or dust; skin or eye contact; and ingestion of food that has come in contact with the chemical.

Q: ARE THERE SITUATIONS WHERE A VINEYARD CAN BE ENTERED BEFORE THE RE-ENTRY PERIOD IS OVER?

Yes. Product labels provide information about the personal protective equipment that should be worn if entry is necessary before the re-entry period is over. A typical requirement for people entering the vineyard early is that they wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing) and chemical resistant gloves. It is also a requirement that clothing be laundered after each day's use.

Q: IF THERE IS NO RE-ENTRY PERIOD ON THE LABEL, WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

Unless personal protective equipment is worn, it is recommended that vineyards are not entered after spraying for 24 hours or at least until the spray has dried.

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