



# CODE OF PRACTICE for SUMMER WEED CONTROL

## BIOSECURITY SA – RURAL CHEMICALS OPERATIONS

### Objective

- To provide a standard for the safe and effective application of agricultural chemicals
- To minimise the risk of off-target damage to grapevines and other susceptible plants from droplet and vapour drift of herbicides

### Equipment and Products

- Use nozzle types and operating pressures that produce a coarse spray quality, or larger. Smaller than coarse spray quality should not be applied in any circumstances. An extremely coarse spray quality is recommended where a glyphosate, MCPA or 2,4-D product is used.
- With other products, when using smaller than extremely coarse spray quality select adjuvants that do not increase the drift potential, such as LI 700 Surfactant or similar.
- Booms should be no higher than is required to achieve a double overlap at the top of the stubble - typically 50 cm above the top of the weeds for a 110° nozzle at 50 cm boom spacing.
- Do not travel at more than 18 km/hr when spraying.
- Do not use 2,4-D ethyl, butyl or iso-butyl ester formulations, e.g. 2,4-D Ester 800, by any application method, including spot-spraying, from 1 September to 30 April.

### Wind speed and direction

- Spray when wind is blowing away from any nearby susceptible plants/crops. Do not spray in calm or variable wind conditions. For 2,4-D and MCPA products, spray during the day when wind is between 3 and 15 km/hr as measured at the application site (mandatory label instruction for 2,4-D) and there is no temperature inversion.

### Spray timing

- Spray during the day wherever possible. Vertical mixing of the air makes temperature inversions unlikely and will reduce the risk of drift caused by temperature inversions.
- Do not spray from 1½ hours before sunset until 1½ hours after sunrise, unless there is no temperature inversion. There is a very low risk of temperature inversion when there is full cloud cover and/or the wind speed is continuously greater than 11 km/hr.

### Monitoring and record keeping

- Monitor and record on-site weather conditions (wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity) at the start and the finish of spraying and at least for every load during spraying. Watch for changes in weather conditions. Stop spraying immediately if a temperature inversion occurs or if spraying conditions become unsuitable for any other reason.

**More Information:** [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ruralchem](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ruralchem)

**General Note:** READ THE LABEL and follow all instructions. It is an offence under the SA Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002 to contravene a mandatory instruction on the approved label of a registered agricultural chemical product.

This Code of Practice was developed in consultation with the Mid North Spray Drift Committee, Sep 2011.