

BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF MEALYBUGS IN WASHINGTON VINEYARDS

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Mealybugs have become an increasing concern for Washington grape growers, primarily due to the fact that they may be the primary vector of grapevine leafroll disease. Mealybug infestations in wine grapes in Washington State have traditionally been suppressed by delayed-dormant airblast/ULV applications of chlorpyrifos. Increased regulation and registrant-driven label changes on the use of chlorpyrifos will reduce growers' ability to use this product in their mealybug management programs.

Successful management of grapevine leafroll disease in Washington State vineyards will depend upon accurate diagnosis and appropriate management of mealybug infestations to reduce disease spread to uninfected vines. Chemigation with the chloro-nicotinyl insecticide imidacloprid has proven effective at suppressing mealybugs on winegrapes. Additionally, several promising chemistries have recently been developed that may contribute to effective control of mealybugs. Vineyard testing of candidate and registered compounds for mealybug control is assisting the development of information for vineyard managers to help control the spread of leafroll disease.