

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Suzanne Ostrom and Dan Curtin

NEW POMACE DISPOSAL OPTION

Sonoma Compost, the local company that operates the yard and wood waste recycling program for the County of Sonoma and its cities, has announced it will be available to receive a limited amount of grape pomace this year.

For the last several years Sonoma Compost has been receiving liquid waste (lees) from a small number of wineries at their Sonoma County Central Landfill site. The lees help Sonoma Compost maintain adequate moisture in their compost windrows and reduce water use at the landfill.

The pomace will be used as an amendment for their compost products. Sonoma Compost's customers include local growers, professional landscapers, backyard gardeners and public agencies.

According to Will Bakx, Sonoma Compost's soil scientist, "We're aware that wineries are looking for disposal options as regulatory pressures increase. We've had good success in the past utilizing wine industry residuals. Our experience indicates that amending grape pomace into our feedstock recipe will enhance the texture and appearance of our compost and provide a modest increase in available nutrients."

The company's marketing director, Paul Paddock, says interested wineries should call his office as soon as possible to make arrangements.

He adds, "We really want this program to work. That means we need to communicate ahead of time about scheduling, minimizing odors, and insuring that there is no free running liquid in pomace delivered to our site".

Paddock added that, "Because pomace can be incorporated into our feedstock with little additional processing, our fee to receive it will be nominal."

For further information, contact:

Sonoma Compost

(707) 664-9113

E-mail- paulpaddock@sonomacompost.com

Website- www.sonomacompost.com



EXPORT READINESS TRAINING (USDA FUNDED)

A program that provides extensive instruction and individualized guidance about selling products in foreign markets will be available to a limited number of California agribusinesses through a special USDA fund.

EXPORT READINESS TRAINING (CONT.)

Implemented by the California Centers for International Trade Development, and managed by the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association, this program is specifically designed for minority or women owned businesses that grow or process food or agricultural products. Products cannot have been previously exported and, all products must be at least 51% U.S. origin.

Export Readiness Training will provide information on international trade practices and the skills necessary to be successful in the global marketplace. The training is taught by experienced international marketing executives and consultants. Specific assistance will be offered in recruiting, qualifying, and selecting agents and distributors, preparing export finance loan applications, and technical assistance. This training is valued at over \$5,000 per company and will be available for only \$325.00.

Interested companies will need to complete an application and submit the fee by October 3, 2005.

Registration information is available at (888) 638-7888 or online at www.wusata.org/ert.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION

In May of 2004 a package of regulations to protect ground water was added to the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Included in these regulations was 3CCR 6609. Part of 3CCR 6609 prohibits application of pre-emergent herbicides within 100 feet of unprotected wells. That prohibition was adopted because pre-emergent herbicides are the primary pesticides that have been found in ground water due to agricultural use.

Pre-emergent herbicides that have been found in ground water are both mobile and persistent, which are characteristic of pesticides listed in 3CCR section 6800(a) and (b) (the Ground Water Protection List).

However, some pre-emergent herbicides are not listed in 3CCR section 6800(b) because they are either not mobile or not persistent. Thus they are considered to have low potential to move offsite to ground water.

According to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), for the purposes of 3CCR section 6609, "pre-emergent herbicides" means pre-emergent herbicides that are listed in 3CCR section 6800(a) or (b). Examples of pre-emergent herbicide active ingredients that would not be covered under include oxyfluorfen (such as Goal), pendimethalin (such as Pendulum and Prowl), prodiamine (such as Barricide and Endurance), and flumioxazin (such as Chateau and Payload). These herbicides would not be covered under the 2004 groundwater regulations.

Herbicides in 3CCR 6800(a) include: atrazine, simazine, bromacil, diuron, prometon, bentazon (Basagran ®) and norflurazon. These herbicides would be covered under the 2004 groundwater regulations.

Herbicides in 3CCR 6800(b) include: chlorsulfuron (such as Glean and Telar), 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt, diquat dibromide, isoxaben (such as Gallery), oryzalin (such as Surflan, Rout and Oryza Ag), propyzamide (such as Kerb and Pronamide), and other active ingredients. Trade names have been given as examples. This list is not inclusive of all products. These herbicides would be covered under the 2004 groundwater regulations.

For an entire list of active ingredients see 3CCR 6800 on DPR's website at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/inhouse/calcode/040101.html#a6800