



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN PRESS RELEASE October 21, 2009

### BURNING ALTERNATIVE OFFERED FOR TREE FRUIT AND GRAPE GROWERS

---

It's that time of year again when growers decide what stays and what goes. For many tree fruit and grape growers, burning has been the easiest way to dispose of unwanted trees and vines.

"There are other options available," says Janice Johnson, RDOS Air Quality Coordinator. "Fruit tree or grape growers may be eligible for the RDOS Wood Waste Disposal/Chipping Program. Growers should contact the RDOS before removing trees to discuss the various disposal options."

This program was created to decrease burning of orchard wood waste, thus decreasing the amount of smoke particulate that enters our air. It has been scientifically proven that these fine particulates found in wood smoke is harmful to human health.

Even more harmful is the smoke produced from burning of non-wood materials. Growers are reminded to remove orchard or vineyard infrastructure materials before pulling trees or vines and to dispose of these materials safely. Wire, irrigation tubing or pipe, and treated posts are illegal to burn because they release toxic chemicals into the air we breathe, and eventually make their way onto the surfaces of plants, our soil and into our water.

Growers wanting to learn more on *Best Practices* for fruit or grape removal can pick up the entertaining video and colorful guide *Agriculture Waste Disposal and Minimizing Smoke Pollution* at the RDOS office - 101 Martin St., Penticton and at most local packing houses.

For more information on disposing of tree or grape infrastructure materials and or on the tree or grape wood waste disposal/chipping program please call RDOS Air Quality at 250-490-4212 or toll free at 1-877-610-3737 extension 4212.

Tree fruit or grape growers who want to remove fruit trees or grapevines may be eligible for funding under *the Tree Fruit and Grape Removal Program*. This funding program helps cover the costs of removal and disposal and is a separate program from the *Tree Fruit Replant Funding Program*. Growers do not need to be re-planting to fruit trees or ground crop but must sign off that the land will remain for agricultural use. There are other eligibility requirements, such as growers must have a minimum of 2.47 acres in production. If eligible, the funding amount works out to a payment of \$4,000 per hectare or \$1618 per acre. Funding is limited.

For more information on the Tree Fruit and Grape Removal Funding and to receive an application please call the Summerland Research Center at 250-494-5021

---

D. Ashton  
RDOS Board Chair

DISTRIBUTION:  
All Press  
All Directors  
CivicInfo

RDOS Intranet  
RDOS Internet  
VOHINO (e-mail [crystal@cfroese.com](mailto:crystal@cfroese.com) - only if relative to Electoral Area E)  
B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer  
P. Derkach, Human Resources Manager

File: 1470.01  
\\rdosfile\data\Administration\PressReleases\2009\PW\Air Quality\Fall 2009\PRESS\_Chipping\_09.doc