

## **Contact State by Aug. 5 to reserve spot for free pesticide disposal**

### **Local News**

Posted by: David Haviland

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*Event targets Grays Harbor, Pacific county residents; emphasis on cranberry growers* OLYMPIA, Wash. - The [Washington State Department of Agriculture](http://www.wa.gov/agriculture) (WSDA) is planning to collect unwanted agricultural and commercial-grade pesticides from cranberry farmers, other Grays Harbor and Pacific county growers, public entities and residents. To participate, sign-up by Aug. 5 by contacting WSDA at [wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov](mailto:wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov) or calling the agency at (360) 902-2056. The actual collection date will be set later. WSDA has contracted with a hazardous waste company to package the pesticides for safe, legal transportation and disposal. The pesticides will be collected in early September well before cranberry harvest begins, "said Joe Hoffman, coordinator of WSDA's pesticide collection program. "One reason for doing this is to help farmers meet the requirements of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification by removing their old or unwanted pesticides before their GAP inspection."

WSDA staff will be at the Washington State University-sponsored cranberry field day July 26 in Long Beach to discuss the agency's free, voluntary pesticide-disposal program. In planning for the pesticide collection event: WSDA staff will provide on-site customer assistance to prepare pesticides for disposal.

Collection dates will be determined after the August customer sign up when the project's scope is known.

Products accepted for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and most chemicals that kill, repel or prevent unwanted pests.

Before disposal, WSDA takes possession of the chemicals and accepts all further liability.

WSDA regulates the registration and sale of pesticides. The department also enforces state and federal laws to protect people, property and the environment against the improper use or disposal of pesticides. Through its disposal events, WSDA has collected more than 2.7 million pounds of waste pesticides since 1988. Visit [www.agr.wa.gov/wastepesticide](http://www.agr.wa.gov/wastepesticide) for information about the WSDA Waste Pesticide Program.