

Vineyard Resting Rebate Guidelines Round 4 (2026-2027)

August 2026



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

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Purpose

The Vineyard Resting rebate scheme was launched in 2023-24 to subsidise the purchase of a plant growth regulator “Ethephon” for use by South Australian winegrape growers (Growers) who choose to trial this chemical found to put winegrape vines into a ‘production hold’.

Round 4 of the Vineyard Resting scheme will open mid-September 2026. Growers can apply for a rebate for Ethephon purchases for up to a total of 1,000 hectares. Growers can apply for the chemical rebate for ethephon purchase made between 01 July 2026 to 31 January 2027. Only one application per Grower will be accepted.

Research trials run by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries in partnership with Wine Australia between 2023-2025 demonstrated that, under experimental conditions, Ethephon (a plant growth regulator) applied at the end of flowering resulted in up to a 90% reduction in crop load while maintaining healthy foliage, which is vital for the vine to store energy to set itself up for the following season.

Consequently, Ethephon appears to be an effective chemical option to reduce crop yield. Based on two seasons’ data, during the season following Ethephon application the yield of treated vines returned to commercial levels, indicating no long-term negative impact on productivity. No residues of Ethephon were detected in the fruit in the season following its application, ensuring that the treated grapes meet safety and quality standards. The long-term effects of these treatments are yet to be determined. All Growers must consider their own circumstances before deciding to rest a vineyard and the method used to do so.

A [technical fact sheet](#) provides a step-by-step guide for implementing the vineyard resting method in a commercial vineyard. Potential applicants should read this fact sheet prior to making any decisions concerning the application of Ethephon to their vines. The technical fact sheet covers application rates, timing, and considerations for vineyard management. It also outlines the potential risks and knowledge gaps involved in trialing this method. The fact sheet should not be interpreted as a recommendation to adopt this management option.

It typically costs more than \$4,500 per hectare to produce red wine grapes. Conservative estimates indicate Growers could save up to \$2,000 per hectare in input and vineyard management costs by choosing to apply Ethephon to rest their vineyards. Resting vineyards may assist Growers to counter the current oversupply and provides time to research information, support and options to advise future business decisions.

The Government of South Australia has launched Round 4 of the Vineyard Resting rebate scheme, which aims to reimburse Growers \$40 (GST exclusive) per hectare for the cost of Ethephon applied to rest vineyards. The purpose of the rebate is to assist Growers to implement trials of this vineyard management option while they assess future decisions regarding vineyard profitability and business viability.

Applications for the Vineyard Resting rebate will close at **5.00pm (ACDT) on 31 January 2027**. Applications will be received until funding is exhausted.

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What information do I need before I apply?

For each vineyard where this vineyard resting method is implemented, the following information will need to be provided as part of the rebate process:

- Grower name and contact details
- Australian Business Number (ABN) Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number
- Vineyard location (address) and Local Government Area
- Wine Region
- Number of blocks eligible for the rebate and the total amount of rebate requested
- A signed declaration
- Official invoices and evidence of payment for purchase of Ethephon (e.g. receipts or bank statements)
- Answer the following question for each block eligible for rebate
 - Grape Variety
 - Area
 - Application Date.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Vineyard Resting rebate is available to South Australian vignerons who have purchased Ethephon and implemented this vineyard resting method on their commercial vineyard. Applicants must:

- Hold an active ABN
- Have an active Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number
- Have a commercial vineyard/s located within South Australia
- Provide copies of official invoices, receipts and proof of payment for the purchase of the Ethephon chemical.
- Have a spray diary documenting the Ethephon application.

Who is ineligible to apply?

Growers who do not:

- Hold an ABN
- Have an active Grape Grower Vine Health Vineyard Identifier Number
- Have a commercial vineyard located in South Australia.

What is eligible for the rebate?

The rebate is available to Growers who apply Ethephon to rest eligible vineyard blocks ahead of the 2027 vintage.

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What is ineligible for the rebate?

Labour costs or any other costs (including contractor and equipment hire) associated with the application of the Ethephon to eligible vineyards.

How do I apply?

Applicants must submit an online application together with all supporting documentation to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) using the electronic application form available at the PIRSA website: <https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/funding>

Only one application form per ABN will be accepted. All claims must be supported by full evidence of payment (official tax invoices and official receipts) and other supporting documentation as outlined in the Guidelines.

It is anticipated that Growers will be notified if their application is successful approximately four weeks from the date of submitting the application. Applications will be received until funding is exhausted.

Upon submitting the online electronic application form, you will be provided with an application receipt number. This number should be used when contacting the PIRSA with any questions or clarifications.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a formal grant agreement before receiving the rebate. An acquittal form will also be provided and must be submitted following the receipt of funding.

More information

For more information prior to submission please contact:

Department of Primary Industries and
Regions

Phone: 1800 931 314

Email: PIRSA.GrantsEnquiries@sa.gov.au.

Lodging applications

Online application form must be completed and submitted with all supporting evidence.

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