

Minimal Farming (so-called Mothballed Vineyards) Policy

For those vineyards or blocks that have been temporarily taken out of full production to save costs. Does not apply to abandoned vineyards which are not eligible for LIVE certification. Applicable from July 1, 2026. Sunsets December 31, 2029, at which point we will reassess.

Policy

If a LIVE member has removed an entire vineyard or portions of it from production during the current industry contraction, they may for the period of one growing season¹, minimally farm the acreage and disregard the prohibition of those active ingredients not listed on the [LIVE Yellow List of Approved Pesticides](#) on those blocks not producing grapes for wine. The sole exclusion to this policy is any copper formulation. This exception does not include vineyards that have entirely ceased farming activities.

Growers must still continue to maintain appropriate mode of action rotations and resistance management limits, as well as limits on sulfur for powdery mildew and mites. Growers must also maintain applicable buffer zones when spraying [Salmon Safe High Hazard List](#) chemistries on the vineyard. They will also need to abide by any label restrictions including buffers and protections for aquatics, pollinators, invertebrates, workers, etc.

The [LIVE Red List](#), i.e. the list of pesticides that are *never* allowed on LIVE vineyards, will still be in effect. Additional active ingredients may be added to this list in 2027 as basic protections resultant from this policy.

Please be aware that IOBC policy prohibits under normal conditions:

The use of insecticides with a broad-spectrum. Only for secondary pests their use can be permitted if no other methods are available or when mandatory control of quarantine organisms is required. Their eventual use must be justified by monitoring and overtaking of a tolerance threshold:

- Pyrethroids and acaricides
- Organochlorine insecticides and acaricides
- Acaricides if safer alternatives exist
- All acaricides toxic to phytoseiid mites
- Toxic, water polluting or very persistent herbicides (e.g. Diquat, Paraquat).

LIVE's Yellow List does currently include highly restricted applications of vetted active ingredients from some of the above categories, so please proceed with extreme care.

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¹ In addition to the remainder of 2026

Additional Resources: [Reducing Vineyard Costs and Removal](#) (OSU) | [Idling Vineyards in the Pacific Northwest](#) (WSU)

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Annual Reporting Requirements

Growers should continue to report as usual, including completing the LIVE Checklist, input reporting, et al. by December 10. We also ask that growers provide a brief written description of their minimally farmed acreage that summarizes farming activities during the year and their date of occurrence. Upload this in the Miscellaneous Documents section of your reporting portal.

If there are items on the LIVE Checklist that a grower feels are particularly not applicable to minimally-farmed sites, please select N/A and enter 'mothballed' or 'minimal farming' in the item notes for the inspector. Compliance with LIVE Checklist items will be at the discretion of the LIVE inspector to evaluate based on individual site characteristics and history.

In the case of a farm with some blocks in production and some minimally farmed, please differentiate them in the reporting forms in the location and additional notes fields.

Inspectors have been instructed to give generous consideration to sites being minimally farmed.

Please contact your regional technical committee chair, LIVE staff, or your inspector with any questions.

If you need contact information for anyone, please contact Isabelle Tobe at isabelle@livecertified.org.