



WHOLESALE BUYERS GUIDE TO WASHINGTON GRAPEVINE QUARANTINES

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The production of juice and wine grapes in Washington State plays a major role in its agricultural and related economies. From the farm gate value of fruit to revenue generated by tourism, it is a vital industry in the state. Because of this, Washington has plant quarantines designed to protect commercial grape production in the state from the detrimental introduction of pests and diseases. These rules, however, do not just impact commercial grape growers in the state. If a wholesale or retail plant outlet fails to comply with the quarantines, their reputation, nursery license, and, ultimately, profitability are at stake.

This publication provides information necessary for buyers and resellers of wholesale plant material to successfully navigate and adhere to Washington's grape quarantines in order to avoid monetary loss due to importation of material that does not meet quarantine restrictions or the inadvertent introduction of a pest or disease that could gravely damage the commercial grape industry within the state.

What is the Washington State Grapevine Quarantine?

Washington State's grapevine quarantine is defined under [WAC 16-483](#), which prohibits several viruses, bacteria, and insect pests on grape plant materials imported from outside the state. Only virus-tested vines are allowed entry, certified under an official state certification program. Currently, only Oregon and California have certification programs that meet this requirement.

Why Quarantines?

The Washington State grapevine quarantine is designed to keep known pests and diseases from entering the state. The listed quarantine pests are known to reduce plant vigor, yield, and/or fruit quality. These declines in vigor or quality can either be acute (within a year) or chronic (slowly result in vine decline). Ultimately, these pests and diseases reduce the productive lifespan of commercial vineyards. In many cases, there are no known 100% effective eradication or treatment options. This makes exclusion (keeping the pest or disease away) the only known effective management tool.

Key Agencies and Acronyms

- Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Ultimately, this means you have up to five potential sources for wholesale grapevines that would be legally allowed to be sold in the state. These options include (1) WSDA-certified grapevines, originating from a Washington-based nursery; (2) non-certified grapevines originating from a Washington-based nursery; (3) ODA-certified grapevines originating from an Oregon nursery; (4) CDFA-certified grapevines originating from a California nursery, and (5) grapevines purchased directly from a grapevine foundation source (specific sources listed under *The Importance of Grapevine Certification Programs*); please note most foundation sources preferentially sell to nurseries due to their limited ability to produce large quantities of vines. Grapevines originating from outside of Washington, from Oregon or California but not ODA- or CDFA-certified (respectively), or from Missouri but not directly from the Clean Grapevine Program, cannot be brought into the state. If non-allowed plants are found at any wholesale or retail outlets, the business will be subject to the consequences listed under *Consequences of Non-Compliance*.

In all cases, the burden of knowing what can and cannot be shipped and sold in the state of Washington falls on the retailer. When you are purchasing certified plant materials from Oregon or California, you must notify the Washington State Department of Agriculture prior to the arrival of that plant material and schedule an inspection. You must also maintain a copy of that inspection paperwork, along with a copy of the certification paperwork (either from Oregon or California), at the location where the plants are sold (Figure 1), to present to a WSDA inspector during any future site visits.

The Importance of Grapevine Certification Programs

“Certified” grapevine material is strictly defined as materials that have gone through an extensive production process to eliminate known virus diseases and kept in a clean state. Washington state has its own grapevine certification program, which is legally defined [WAC 16-462](#); , but also recognizes certification programs in California and Oregon.

Vines with a WSDA, CDFA, or ODA “certified” label must originate from one of three grapevine Foundation Vineyards in the United States: Foundation Plant Services operated by University of California-Davis, the Clean Plant Center Northwest operated by Washington State University, and the Clean Grapevine Program operated by Missouri State University. Nurseries buy vines from these sources, and subsequently plant them in Nursery Mother Blocks that undergo very rigid management to maintain their virus-free standing, along with routine inspections and testing. Nurseries then propagate materials from these certified Mother Blocks to be sold directly to growers or to other retail outlets as certified plant materials.

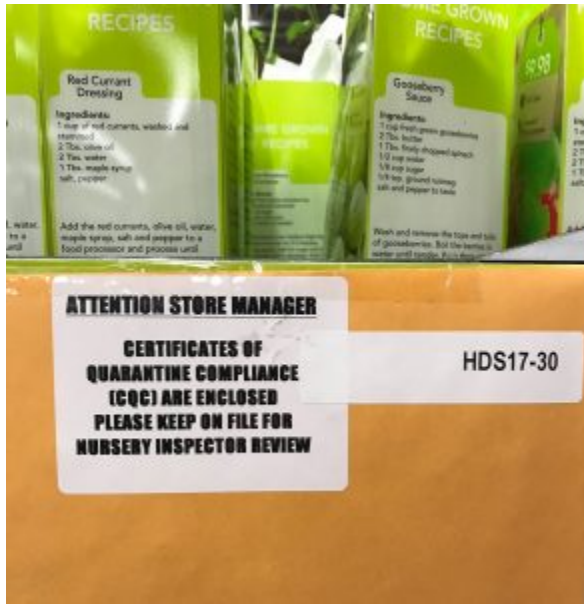


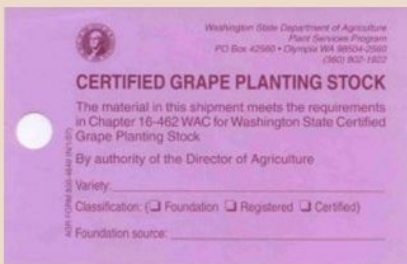
Figure 1. Maintaining a copy of the inspection paperwork at the site the plants are sold speeds up the WSDA inspection process. In situations where nurseries are selling plant materials on consignment, it is especially helpful to have plant materials delivered with the paperwork affixed to the plant material packaging, as shown here.

Who Enforces Grapevine Quarantines?

Grapevine quarantines in Washington are enforced by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. They can be contacted at plant@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-1874.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

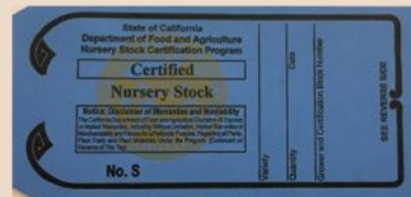
What happens if your retail operation is out of compliance with Washington’s grapevine quarantines? The most likely first step is that a WSDA Plant Inspector will come to your establishment and have you immediately halt the sale of all non-compliant materials. You will then have the option to return that non-compliant material back to the source you got it from, or if that is not possible, the material will need to be destroyed at your expense.



WSDA-CERTIFIED GRAPEVINE TAG



ODA-CERTIFIED GRAPEVINE TAG



CDFA-CERTIFIED GRAPEVINE TAG

It is the plant material that is certified, not the nursery. Thus, it is important to know the certification status of your order, as nurseries can sell both certified and non-certified grapevines. Look for the certified grapevine tag or stamp. Examples of “certified” tags from Washington, Oregon, and California are above.

Tips for Wholesale Buyers and Retailers

Always keep a copy of certification and inspection reports on site.

This action helps in inspections. When paperwork is not available, WSDA Inspectors then have a more difficult time determining the source of the plant materials, and thus, if they meet quarantine requirements. If you cannot prove plant source, then it is assumed the plants do not meet quarantine.

If it is not from Washington, Oregon, California, or (in some cases) Missouri, it is not allowed into the state.

While prices and selections might be tempting from other states, they simply are not allowed. Only purchase vines (certified or non-certified) from Washington nurseries, and/or certified vines from Oregon and California. Grapevine propagation material may also be obtained from the NCPN Clean Plant Center at Missouri State University, and must enter under the compliance agreement with WSDA.

All parts of the plant must meet quarantine standards.

Whether the vines are own-rooted or grafted onto a rootstock, all parts (rootstock and scion) must be able to pass quarantine.

Reputation is key.

Whether you are a direct retailer or offering shelf space for other retailers, your reputation for offering healthy, legal plant materials for grape growers and backyard gardeners in Washington is paramount. Even if you are not the direct retailer, your business, and thus reputation, is still associated with the sale of those vines.

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