



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Sign up by Sept. 2 for free pesticide disposal at Ellensburg, Okanogan, and Orondo *Pesticide disposal events planned for mid-October*

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is sponsoring pesticide disposal events near Ellensburg, Okanogan and Orondo in mid-October, but the deadline to sign up is approaching fast—Sept. 2.

The Ellensburg event is on Oct. 14, while the waste pesticide collection for Okanogan will be Oct. 15 and at Orondo on Oct. 16.

WSDA is encouraging farmers, businesses, residents and landowners to inspect their storage sheds, barns, shops and garages and look for agricultural and commercial-grade pesticide products that are no longer needed or wanted. WSDA's collection events are a cost-free and liability-free opportunity to get rid of these potentially hazardous materials.

“This free service helps Washington residents protect their local environment by properly disposing of damaged, unusable or unwanted pesticides,” said program coordinator Joe Hoffman. “Proper disposal helps keep our water clean, prevents expensive cleanup projects and protects public health.”

Agricultural and commercial-grade pesticide products accepted for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and most chemicals that kill, repel or prevent unwanted pests. Customers transport unwanted pesticides to the local collection site where WSDA takes possession. A hazardous waste company works with WSDA at the collection site to segregate and package the pesticides for safe, legal transportation and disposal.

Through this program, more than two million pounds of waste pesticide products have been collected and properly disposed of since 1988. WSDA also regulates the registration, sale and use of pesticides.

Customers will receive supplies necessary to protect broken or leaky containers to ensure safe transportation to the collection site, as well as directions to the site, hours of operation and transportation documents. Customer names do not appear on any retained documents. Upon request, WSDA will provide free assistance at a customer's property to help inventory unwanted pesticides and package leaky containers. To sign up, call (360) 902-2056, (877) 301-4555 (toll free) or send an e-mail to wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov.

Empty pesticide containers, fertilizers, motor oil and household hazardous waste are not accepted for disposal by WSDA's program. Contact your local solid waste program for assistance with these other items.

For more information, contact the Waste Pesticide Program, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589 or visit the WSDA Web site at www.agr.wa.gov and click on “Pesticides and Fertilizers.”

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