



TWGGA Supports High Plains Grape Growers Faced with Dicamba Damage *Warns of Further Impacts on Texas' Wine Industry*

For Immediate Release

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The Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association ([TWGGA](#)) – the state’s largest and oldest grape and wine trade association – has expressed support for 57 High Plains vineyards and processors who are suing Bayer-Monsanto and BASF over damage caused by a defective GMO seed system that uses the highly volatile, drift-prone dicamba herbicide.

Roxanne Myers, TWGGA President, said the lawsuit underscores ongoing concerns about the continuing use of dicamba-based products by Texas row crop farmers on the production and quality of Texas wine. Dicamba, which easily turns into a gas and can move miles away from where it is applied, is lethal to grape vines.

“This lawsuit hopes to reveal the demonstrable damage caused by the use of dicamba-based products not only on the quality of grape production but ultimately how it impacts our final product, Texas wine and ultimately the Texas wine consumers,” said Myers. “The long-term impacts have yet to be revealed, but no doubt it will be costly to grape growers, wine makers and our consumers.”

“Grape growers and processors are the first in a long line of steps leading from the trellis to the table,” she said. “Manufacturing, bottling, marketing, and retailing wine are additional industry partners that rely on the vineyard. For the past few years, the impact of the increasing and alarming spread of dicamba damage is particularly concerning.”

In recent years, the Texas High Plains and Panhandle has become the leading region for Texas grape production. As of 2019, the [USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service](#) identified Texas High Plains and Panhandle vineyards as accounting for 3,000 or 60% of the state’s 5,020 fruit-bearing acres. It yields 10,300 or 72% of the 14,180 tons produced, with the largest High Plains yield being 3.4 tons per acre. The 2019 growth numbers are more striking when compared to the same reports for [2015](#) and [2017](#).

Also at stake are the Texas wine industry’s efforts to bring state wine to the national and international stage. Last year, the Texas Legislature approved a new AVA labeling rule which allows all state wineries to identify their Texas-centric wines on the label.

“This [AVA labeling effort](#) places Texas on the same footing as California, Oregon and Washington,” said Myers. “But the bottom line is no Texas grapes, no Texas wine. Our grape growers have to be protected for this industry to survive and thrive.”



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Other Dicamba Media Reports:

<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/2021/06/14/texas-grape-growers-sue-bayer-monsanto-and-basf-alleging-herbicide-threatens-their-future/>

<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2021/06/04/texas-grape-growers-arkansas-honey>

<https://modernfarmer.com/2021/06/texas-wine-grape-growers-sue-bayer-monsanto-over-dicamba-drift-damage/>

<https://agriflife.org/texasaglaw/2017/11/20/dicamba-update-part-ii/>

<https://agriflife.org/texasaglaw/2017/11/13/dicamba-update/>

<https://www.lubbockonline.com/story/news/2021/06/07/grape-growers-file-lawsuit-vs-bayer-monsanto-over-herbicide-damage/7588527002/>

<https://apnews.com/article/texas-business-environment-and-nature-679e1f222aff32078fa27d3f2774c9a3>

https://www.stltoday.com/business/local/dozens-of-texas-vineyards-file-suit-against-bayer-basf-allege-widespread-damage-by-weedkiller/article_3fb02bc5-55ba-5849-a1e3-f9042c943982.html

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/jun/08/texas-vineyards-file-suit-over-dicamba/>

<https://investigatemitwest.org/2021/06/04/i-dont-know-who-will-still-be-here-in-five-years-texas-vineyards-sue-over-dicamba-damage/>

<https://www.star-telegram.com/news/state/texas/article252004448.html>