

Washington wine is naturally sustainable.

WASHINGTON IS A HEALTHY HOME FOR GRAPES.



Many pests, including fungal and viral diseases, insects, and birds don't like it here.

- Winter freezes kill many pests, including fungal & viral diseases
- Drip irrigation reduces canopy vigor and density—reduces home for pests
- Light-textured, lean, sandy soils are not a good home for pests



Fungal diseases plague many wine regions, but Washington weather fights disease, naturally.

- Dry climate
- Persistent winds
- Abundant sunlight
- Warm temperatures
- Low humidity



SUSTAINABILITY IN WASHINGTON

Growers, vintners, industry associations, and universities developed Vinewise® and Winerywise™ as an educational resource: a self-assessment for sustainable winegrape growing and winemaking practices. The online tools have been built and fine-tuned over 20 years to cover dozens of topics related to sustainable winemaking, viticulture, and business. Washington winegrape growers and vintners who want to certify their practices choose from several certification programs.



SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH RESEARCH

The Washington Wine Commission invests 25% of its budget to fund research at Washington State University that helps develop new tools based on science to:

- Improve pest management
- Improve irrigation for better wine quality
- Reduce pesticide use



SUSTAINABILITY DEFINED:

Environmentally sound, socially equitable and economically viable with common principles:

- Holistic, science-based
- Biodiversity
- Watershed protection
- Soil health
- Low input farming
- Conserving and protecting natural resources
- Community stewardship

Related Terms Defined

Sustainable is more comprehensive than organic and considers society at large, tailored to meet local and regional conditions with continual improvement through research and science. There are a variety of third-party certification programs available.

Organic means grown without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides and has other requirements for certification set by the US Department of Agriculture.

Biodynamic emphasizes spiritual perspectives, using herbal and mineral additives for compost and field sprays under requirements for certification set by Demeter USA, using the USDA organic standard as a base.