



2013 Environmental Health Policy with regard to Vineyard Spraying on Nitida Wine Farm

Chameleons Montessori strives to maintain the safest possible environment for all the children, staff and parents frequenting the premises.

After certain concerns were raised regarding crops and insecticides, the school undertook extensive research and consulted with various experts regarding the possible side effects of exposure to the crop spraying in the surrounding vineyards, specifically with regard to the health of all those at Chameleons Montessori.

We also solicited the advice of various experts in the field. The Chameleons Montessori Environmental Health Policy that follows below was adopted after a rigorous environmental sampling and testing program supervised by Prof Leslie London of UCT was carried out on the school premises. This policy was endorsed by Prof. London of UCT, The Dept. of Health and Safety, The Agricultural Dept., The Air Pollution Department, and the Tygerberg Poison Unit.

1. Nitida's entire farming process is audited by the IPW (Integrated Production of Wines in South Africa). This is a voluntary environmental sustainability scheme established by the South African wine industry. It provides us with a guarantee that grape production was undertaken with due consideration for the environment, and that the wine was produced in an environmentally responsible manner and is safe for the consumer.

IPW consists of a set of guidelines specifying good agricultural practices related to grape production, as well as a set of guidelines specifying good manufacturing practices related to wine production and packaging activities.

Compliance with the IPW guidelines is assessed on an annual basis through the completion of a self evaluation questionnaire and is independently audited on a spot check basis.

2. Nitida does not spray with Organophosphates .
3. Vineyard Spraying takes place approximately 8 times per year, for 2-3 days at a time.
4. No aerial spraying takes place on Nitida.
5. There is no conclusive evidence that the spraying of the vineyards has any direct effect on the children or staff's health or that it is the cause of allergies.
6. There is no reason for concern regarding the consumption of Municipal water on the farm.
7. However, like with any chemical, staff and children should not have any direct contact with the spray.

In spite of the above assurances, the school will be minimizing the children's and staff's possible exposure to the spray drift during the crop spraying season by implementing the following safety precautions:

- The school has planted a row of fast growing trees to form a barrier along the boundaries of the school grounds adjacent to the vineyards.
- The school has installed a shade cloth barrier which can be erected during spraying.
- Nitida will inform the school via SMS of the days that they will be spraying. As the need for spraying is weather dependent, notice may however be given as late as the afternoon/ evening before.

- The school will immediately follow up with an SMS and E-mail to all parents and staff to notify them of the spraying.
- In the case where little notice is received from the farm, parents will be notified by email and SMS as soon as possible. In addition, a staff member will be present in the parking area to inform parents of the spraying.
- On spraying days (when Nitida is spraying in the vineyard adjacent to the school), the children will remain indoors for the duration of the day. Outdoor play equipment (e.g. climbing frames) will be hosed down after spraying before the children use them again.
- In the case where Nitida is treating the weeds between the vineyards with weed killer, no action is necessary on the part of the school as there is no risk of exposure. However, (when Nitida is spraying in the vineyard adjacent to the school) children will remain indoors for the duration of the spraying as an additional precaution.

For more information, please refer to the following website: www.ipw.co.za (Integrated Production of Wines in South Africa).

For full details of the school's vineyard spraying investigations, please visit the school's website (www.chameleonsmontessori.co.za).

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