



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Westbridge Agricultural Products Announces that Botector<sup>®</sup> has been EPA Approved as an Organic Biopesticide to Prevent Gray Mold in Grapes**

**Vista, CA** Westbridge Agricultural Products announces that Botector<sup>®</sup> has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a biopesticide for the control of Gray Mold in grape production. Developed by bio-ferm GmbH in Tulln, Austria, and exclusively marketed in the United States by Westbridge Agricultural Products of Vista, California, Botector<sup>®</sup> contains highly efficient microorganisms which block the gray mold pathogen from colonizing infection sites on the flower or berry surface. Gray Mold, which is caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, can be responsible for a loss of more than 50% of grape yield and may negatively affect the quality of the fruit. Dr. Larry Parker, Director of Westbridge Research and Development, said that “Botector<sup>®</sup> has proven efficacy in three years of research trials under a variety of growing conditions, and has shown no negative impact upon grape quality or the fermentation process.”

Botector<sup>®</sup> acts as a competitive antagonist and does not directly attack the *Botrytis cinerea* pathogen. Instead, it works through natural competition for space and nutrients, inhibiting the pathogen from colonizing on the flower or berry. Since Botector<sup>®</sup> is not an antibiotic, there is no risk of the pathogen developing resistance even with frequent applications, making it an important and effective tool in the prevention of disease. Control is achieved by applying the product by itself or in combination with other products in a program of Integrated Pest Management. Botector<sup>®</sup> is allowed for use in organic farming. It leaves no chemical residue, is safe for humans and animals, and is harmless to bees and other beneficial insects.

Tina Koenemann, President of Westbridge, stated that “Westbridge is pleased to be the exclusive distributor of Botector<sup>®</sup>. It confirms Westbridge’s commitment to bringing premier products to market to meet the important needs of growers in the United States.”

Since 1982, Westbridge Agricultural Products has been a wholesale manufacturer of specialty liquid fertilizers and crop protection products. From its TRIGGRR<sup>®</sup> and Organic BioLink<sup>®</sup> to Earthtrend<sup>®</sup> Sustainables and SUNBurst<sup>®</sup> products, Westbridge provides a portfolio of high quality inputs and other products to meet the grower’s crop production and crop protection needs.

For questions about Botector<sup>®</sup> or the Westbridge product line, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (800) 876-2767 or visit our website at [www.westbridge.com](http://www.westbridge.com).

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