



2015 TREE FRUIT REPLANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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FURTHER INFORMATION - please contact:

Tree Fruit Replant Program Toll Free 1-888-221-7141

Email: AGRI.TreeFruitReplant@gov.bc.ca

C/O BC Ministry of Agriculture Tree Fruit Replant Program, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford BC
V3G 2M3

Website: <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/treefrt/replant/replant.htm>

1. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY TO ENSURE ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA.

Before proceeding with a replant application and project under the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program it is required that you consult with a professional horticulturist or field-person in order to ensure project viability and success.

For the 2015 Replant Program, the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) will be accepting applications from February 16, 2015 to March 31, 2015. Annual application timelines for plantings in subsequent years will be posted on the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture website.

At present the program is only accepting applications for 2015.

Completed applications will be accepted by Ministry of Agriculture in two ways:

- By email to: AGRI.TreeFruitReplant@gov.bc.ca no later than 11:59 pm March 31, 2015
- By mail to: Ministry of Agriculture, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford BC V3G 2M3
ATTN Tree Fruit Replant Program; post-marked no later than March 31, 2015.

Review of these applications will begin as soon as possible.

Applications must be fully complete or they will be returned to the applicant and priority will not be acknowledged.

The application deadline is March 31st.

Once the funding for the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program has been fully allocated, the Program will be closed to applications for the year.

2. TYPES OF REPLANT PROGRAM GRANTS

a. BIOASSAY TEST GRANT

A replant bioassay test grant of \$300 per applicant will be available to applicants who apply for funding and submit a completed test report. If you are applying for the bioassay grant, you must indicate such on the application and provide a copy of the test results and a paid receipt.

Subsequent application years will place priority on applications with complete replant bioassay testing.

b. APPLE REPLANT GRANT

The grant will be \$3.50 per tree to a maximum grant eligibility of \$7,500 per acre.

c. SOFT FRUIT AND PEAR REPLANT GRANT

The grant for soft fruit and pears will be \$3.50 per tree to a maximum of \$2,800 per acre.

3. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

a. REQUIREMENTS

For the purposes of this program, eligible fruit trees are defined as: apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, and prunes provided that they fit the removal and replant criteria below.

1. The applicant must be actively engaged in tree fruit production and responsible for the operations of the orchard.
2. The applicant must be the owner (or lessee) of the land to be replanted. The owner (and in the case of leased property, both the owner and the lessee), must certify an intention to maintain the property as a commercial orchard operation for a period of at least 5 years from the date of replanting. Applicants with projects that are removed within that 5 year period may be required to repay any grants paid.
3. The orchard must have at least **5 acres (or 2 hectares)** in tree fruits and be in the Province of British Columbia (B.C.).
4. The minimum eligible acreage for the replant grant for 2015 is 1 acre.
5. The maximum eligible acreage for the replant grant for 2015 is 10 acres per farm operation.
6. An area of orchard (of one or more of the listed crops above) equal to the area to be replanted must have been taken out of production within the past five years.
 - It is the intent of the program to enable orchardists to replant on the site from which trees were removed or grafted. Plantings to different sites may qualify if the Administrator judges the project to be horticulturally sound, financially viable and an integral part of the applicant's orchard operation. Credit for an area removed from production may only be used once to qualify for a replant grant.

The following types of projects are not eligible for consideration:

- a. Interplantings in existing orchards,
- b. Transplanted trees 3 years or older,
- c. Replanted projects that are replaced within five years of the receipt of a previous replant grant.
- d. Transplanted trees that were paid under the replant program in a previous year are not eligible for funding under the new program.

Note: No grants will be paid on sleeping eyes, benchgrafted rootstock or rootstock budded and permanently planted in 2015. Only finished trees are eligible for a grant in 2015, but such projects may be eligible for a subsequent program.

4. APPLICATION/PROJECT PROCESS OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

a. APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND COMPONENTS

In order to be considered for a replant grant, an applicant must complete all program requirements and submit a completed application including:

1. Completed 2015 Grant and Contribution Application (including checklist);
2. Replant Plan (including orchard plot plan) with horticultural advisor sign off. See Planting Requirements below.
 - **NOTE:** Consultation with a qualified horticulturist or advisor is required in planning the project. All applications are reviewed by a Committee of industry horticultural advisors. If you have a horticultural advisor, you will need to review your planting plan with him or her.
3. A Replant Cash Flow Projection or Business plan;
4. Confirmation of tree order (nursery confirmation of tree order or copy of root stock purchase);
5. Farm tax return (to verify commercial farmer status) – page 1 only;
6. Soil test report (within the last 3 years) or Bio-Assay Testing Report. These reports may not be available at application time, but will need to be supplied prior to inspection.

b. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications are reviewed by the Ministry and a program committee of industry horticultural advisors. Criteria or priorities for the Program may vary year-to-year. The Ministry may choose to re-open the application process from time-to-time, if funds are available.

Applications will be returned if incomplete or do not meet program requirements.

Applications will be considered based on fulfilling the criteria below:

1. Completeness and meeting program requirements;
2. Strength and quality of application and likelihood of success;
3. Horticultural soundness;
4. Variety selection;
5. Timeliness of submission.

Once the funding for the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program has been fully allocated, the Program will be closed to applications for the year.

c. PROJECT APPROVAL

Following application review and a decision to approve, the Program Administrator (“the Administrator”) will provide a formal letter of approval. Applicants applying for the 2015 replant year will receive a confirmation form and assigned project number with an approval letter listing the details of their replant plans. Applicants will be asked to review this information, confirm project participation via confirmation form and update any changes from their original application. No response by the applicant within 2 weeks of the date of the approval letter may result in the project being removed from the Program.

The Administrator and/or Ministry reserves the right to create an annual ‘eligibility list’ once the funding is fully committed. This list **will not** be carried over from year to year.

Please note the following:

1. The Ministry expects that the program will be fully subscribed and committed each year;
2. Changes may not be approved;
3. Modifications to previously approved applications that result in an increase in the replant grant and/or acreage may be reviewed and considered based on the date the changes are received in the office and funding available;
4. Project confirmation form must be submitted by the applicant within 2 weeks;
5. If the applicant proceeds prior to receiving the approval letter from the Administrator, the project may be entirely at the applicant's own cost.

d. **REPLANTING PROCESS**

1. **Project holders must immediately notify the Administrator of any changes to the project tree numbers or total cancellation.**
2. **Replant progress:** The administrator may require data from project holders at different stages of replant prior to inspection. Such as:
 - a. Replant plan work completion (soil conditioning, fumigation, and/or other specifications listed by project replant plan);
 - b. Receipt of trees (confirming target numbers);
 - c. Post-replant (confirming completion – triggers inspection).
3. Planting must occur prior to May 1.

e. **PLANTING REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements must be considered in your replant plan.

1. Trees must be robust and under good husbandry.
2. Support and irrigation systems should be completed by June 1, 2015 but no later than July 31, 2015. Funding for projects may be cancelled if the permanent irrigation system and, if required, a completed support system, are not completed by the deadline.

TREE CALIPER

1. Less than 1500 trees per acre minimum 1/2 inch (13mm);
2. 1500 or more trees per acre minimum 7/16 inch (11mm);
3. Tree caliper is measured approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the bud union.

PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS

1. On apple trees, bud unions must be a minimum of 2 inches (5 cm) above ground.

IRRIGATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

1. Irrigation systems should meet the standards and specifications outlined in the B.C. Trickle Irrigation Manual and the B.C. Sprinkler Irrigation Manual. It is recommended that growers use Certified Irrigation Designers for the irrigation plan.
2. Support systems should meet the standards outlined in "Support Systems for High-Density Orchards", published by the Ministry (Bert van Dalssen) in 1989.

TREE FRUIT VARIETY

1. Only high value apple varieties are eligible:
 - a. Potential of at least \$.25 per pound for apples;
 - b. Variety must be horticulturally suited for your location and site.
2. Soft fruit varieties must have the potential of achieving high value for the crop grown.
3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the choice of variety is culturally suited to the location and operation as per the project Replant Plan in consultation with their Horticultural Advisor or packinghouse field person;
4. Applicants should be aware that many new varieties require payment of plant patent royalties. Contact Summerland Varieties Corp for information on protected varieties.

An evaluation will be done by the replant review committee to assess qualification of variety under the program. A Tree Fruit Variety Strategy Report (March 2015) and a Soft Fruit Variety Strategy Report (April 2015) will be available for the 2016 program year.

f. REPLANT INSPECTION PROCESS

1. Inspection of replant projects will occur between June-July 2015;
2. An inspection report is due to the Administrator by August 31, 2015 to meet approval and payment timelines.
 - a. The project must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator as per the program requirements and approved replant plan.
3. On completion of the planting, the project holder must contact the Administrator. A representative will inspect the project to verify that the project meets these guidelines;
4. A permanent irrigation system is required for all plantings and must be complete prior to inspection. For cherry plantings, a permanent under tree irrigation system is required;
5. A support system for all apple plantings is required. Apple trees must be tied to the support system at the time of inspection;
6. During inspection, the inspector will undertake the following:
 - a. Measure average tree and row spacing;
 - b. Conduct a tree count by variety and block;
 - c. Ensure support system is complete and trees are tied (apples);
 - d. Ensure permanent irrigation is installed;
 - e. Assess nursery tree quality in terms of caliper and health;
 - f. Determine that the planting plan was followed;
 - g. Assess site preparation and overall planting quality;
 - h. Ensure that weed and pest control is acceptable.

g. GRANT PAYMENT

1. The Administrator reserves the right to delay payment until satisfactory replant project performance can be demonstrated;
2. Payment is made following the review and approval of the inspection report by the Administrator.

For overall program evaluation, project holders will be requested to provide ongoing performance data with respect to their project as requested by the Ministry.

h. APPEAL PROCESS

An appeal committee will be available to review disputes. While these guidelines are not subject to appeal, administrative decisions implementing them are.

Decisions of the Administrator may be appealed if the following conditions are met:

1. The Administrator is notified in writing of the applicant's appeal within 30 days from the date on which the applicant is advised of the decision in question;
2. The issue being appealed is clearly specified in the letter of appeal; and
3. The applicant agrees to accept the final decision.

Guidelines for the appeal process can be obtained from the Administrator.

5. GUIDELINES FOR REPLANT PLAN AND BUSINESS PLAN

a. APPLES

Seek to plant the highest density manageable. Economic studies in BC and other tree fruit production areas of the world suggest that apple densities of 1,200 or more trees per acre are the most profitable and recommended.

The choice of rootstock and spacing is an individual one that should be discussed with the applicant's Horticultural Advisor. In general, plant precocious rootstocks such as M9 clones or B9, at densities of 1,000-2,000 trees per acre or more (depending on rootstock). Avoid wide row spacing to maximize yields. Utilize good tree training techniques to maintain trees within their spacing.

Apple blocks should be at least one acre and comprised of no more than two varieties. Smaller areas planted over consecutive years can be combined to equal at least 1 acre can be considered as one application.

A reasonable number of pollinizers should be incorporated where required.

b. SOFT FRUIT AND PEARS:

In general, plant soft fruit and pear varieties as closely as possible to realize early yields. Consider new cherry dwarfing rootstocks as they have higher cropping potential. Since dwarfing rootstocks are generally unavailable for other stone fruits, very high density plantings are not feasible except for trial purposes. Special tree training techniques will be required for higher density plantings.

Blocks must be at least one acre of one commodity, with not more than three varieties, however smaller areas will be considered where for example, an existing block of the same variety is being extended and application must be for at least one acre combined.

Pollinizers, where required, must be planted within the block.

c. FERTIGATION, SOIL TESTING AND FUMIGATION

To minimize replant problems it is required to test for pH and fertility. Applicants should also consider a soil bioassay test and/or consider soil amendments and fumigation.

If you fertigate, the nutrient injection system should include a permanently installed:

- a) venturi or pump injector, and
- b) backflow prevention device acceptable to the water provider.

The backflow prevention device should, as a minimum, be a double check valve assembly.

Note: most irrigation districts require reduced pressure principle devices.

Since registration and availability of soil amendment products change annually applicants should consult with their Horticultural Advisor to ensure that the soil amendment will be helpful.

d. BUDWOOD AND NURSERY STOCK

Use certified budwood whenever possible that has been virus tested and true to type. Trees free of harmful viruses are more productive and produce fruit of better quality. Be aware of source of plant materials that may have insect or disease problems.

Trees of large caliper with good root systems grow better and yield heavier than lower quality trees. Contact your Horticultural Advisor and/or nursery for information.

e. BUSINESS PLAN

While it is not a general requirement, applicants are encouraged to complete whole farm business plans to review planting projects in terms of their horticultural, marketing, human resource and financial impacts. The Administrator may require the applicant to complete a satisfactory Business Plan in cases where financial viability is a concern owing to financial losses indicated from the replant cash flow projection or farm income and expense statement submitted with the application. The development of a Business Plan is important in the decision to plant and revitalize the orchard to improved profitability.

6. APPENDIX – TREE FRUIT GRAFTING AND BUDDING OVER REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

a. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Please see the main 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements document. Requirements in the main document are the same as for grafting/budding except where noted in this Appendix.

b. GRANT

A grant of \$2.50 per tree to a maximum of \$5,000 per acre is available for apple plantings. Soft fruit (including pear) plantings are eligible to a maximum of \$2,000 per acre.

c. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Please see Section 3 of the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements.

d. APPLICATION PROCESS

Same as Section 4 of the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements with the exception of Section 4e Planting Requirements. Applications should be targeted for the year the trees will meet inspection.

e. REPLANT INSPECTION

Same as Section 4f of the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements. Please note: Normally at least 90% grafting success is required for full payment, but partial payments may be considered based on the actual success rate for otherwise good projects. Inspections are normally conducted in July and August (of the same year as grafted) once scion growth has been established. August budded trees may be eligible in the year following.

f. GRANT PAYMENT

Please see Section 4g of the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements.

g. GUIDELINE STANDARDS FOR REPLANT PLANS (GRAFTING AND BUDDING OVER)

Applicants will be required to complete the same replant plan as replant applicants. Omit sections where grafting over is not involved. Specifically, grafting or budding over requires the following:

1. Grafting must utilize dormant grafting wood and should be completed by full bloom time. Discussion with your horticultural advisor to ensure project success is highly recommended.
2. Successful grafting/budding requires considerable skills and growers should consider contracting experienced grafters/budders or take training to ensure success of the project.
3. Projects will be approved based on the variety considerations.
4. Site selection is important in the success of any replant or grafting project.
5. Submission of variety plant patent royalties is required if applicable.
6. Grafting success with stone fruits is limited and should be only considered with experienced grafters

h. APPEALS.

Please see Section 4h of the 2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements.