



2017/18 TREE FRUIT REPLANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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FURTHER INFORMATION - please contact:

BC Tree Fruit Replant Program

Phone: 1-250-762-5226 Ext. 1

Email: replant@bcfga.com or AGRI.TreeFruitReplant@gov.bc.ca

C/O BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, BC Fruit Growers Assoc., 880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4

Website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agriculture-business-and-economy/programs/treefruit-replant-program>

or <http://www.bcfga.com>

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 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program (Replant Program) it is required that you consult with a horticulturist or field-person in order to support project viability and success.

For the 2017/18 Replant Program, the BC Fruit Growers Association (BCFGA) will be accepting applications from August 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016. Annual application timelines for future year Replant Program will be posted on the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) website.

At present the program is only accepting applications for 2017/18.

Completed applications will be accepted by BCFGa in two ways:

- By email to: replant@bcfga.com no later than 11:59 pm October 31, 2016
- By mail to: BC Fruit Growers Assoc., 880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4
ATTN: BC Tree Fruit Replant Program; post-marked no later than October 31, 2016.

Review of applications will begin after the application period has closed.

Applications must be complete to be eligible.

The application deadline is October 31, 2016. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

Projects submitted for 2017/18 funding and planted, but not funded, are not eligible in future program years.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding for your project.

Projects will be scored by the Horticultural Review Committee and funding will be allocated to highest scored projects.

Once the funding for the 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program has been fully allocated, the Replant Program will be closed for the year.

Unfunded applications will not be carried over to subsequent years. Applicants, who applied and postponed their project, may re-apply in the respective year of planting.

Planted, but unfunded projects from previous years are not eligible for the 2017/18 Replant program.

2. TYPES OF REPLANT PROGRAM FUNDING

a. BIOASSAY TEST FUNDS

\$300 per applicant will be available to applicants who apply for bioassay funding and submit a completed bioassay test report under the testing methods of the BC Tree Fruit Co-op. When applying for the bioassay test funding, the applicant must indicate on the application and provide a copy of a paid receipt.

Applications with a current replant bioassay testing receipt will be scored higher.

b. APPLE REPLANT FUNDS

Apple replant funding will be \$3.50 per finished tree to a maximum eligibility of \$7,625 per acre (2,178 trees per acre).

c. SOFT FRUIT AND PEAR REPLANT FUNDS

Soft fruit and pears replant funding will be \$3.50 per finished tree to a maximum of \$2,800 per acre (800 trees 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 funds paid.
3. The orchard operation must have at least **5 acres (or 2 hectares)** in tree fruits and be in the Province of British Columbia.
4. The minimum eligible acreage of a tree fruit variety replant block for replant funding for 2017/18 is 1 acre. If the project is adding onto an existing block of the same commodity and variety then the total contiguous acreage of existing and new commodity and variety must be more than one acre. *It remains the intention of the program to support larger than 1 acre replant projects.*
5. The maximum eligible acreage for 2017/18 replant funding 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.
7. Eligible Replant Program project must replant trees as per the application Replant Plan in Spring 2017.

The following types of projects are not eligible for consideration:

- a. Interplantings in existing orchards (planting young trees between each existing tree in the row).
- b. Transplanted trees 3 years or older.
- c. Replanted projects that are replaced within five years of the receipt of support from previous replant programs.
- d. Transplanted trees that were paid for under the replant program in a previous year are not eligible for funding under this program.

4. APPLICATION/PROJECT PROCESS OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

a. IMPORTANT FUNDING INFORMATION

- Applications must be complete to be eligible.
- The application deadline is October 31, 2016. Applications will not be accepted after this date.
- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding of the submitted project.
- Projects will be scored by the Horticultural Review Committee based on a merit-based Replant Program project scoring criteria.
- If the applicant proceeds with a project prior to receiving the approval letter from the Administrator, the project may be entirely at the applicant's own cost.
- Funding will be allocated to highest scored projects.
- Once the funding for the 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program has been fully allocated, the Program will be closed for the year.
- Planted but unfunded projects from previous years are not eligible for the 2017/18 Replant Program.
- Projects submitted for 2017/18 and planted, but not funded, are not eligible in future program years.

b. APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND COMPONENTS

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

1. Completed 2017/18 Project Application (including checklist). Please ensure you are applying as the tax entity of your farm or orchard;
2. Replant Plan (including orchard plot plan) with horticultural advisor signature.
 - **NOTE:** Consultation with a practicing horticulturist or field advisor is required in planning the project.
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. Bio-Assay Testing Report or soil test report or payment receipt (within the last 3 years). Reports may not be available at application time and a copy of the payment receipt may be provided instead.

c. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications are reviewed by the Horticultural Review Committee (HRC) of industry horticultural advisors and BC Ministry of Agriculture staff. 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 are reviewed and scored after the closing date of October 31, 2016. Scoring is based on the Replant Program criteria found below.

Application and Project Review Process:

- Projects received by BCFG (the Program Administrator).
- Projects are reviewed for completeness and applicant notified of receipt via email.
- Closing date passes.
- Applications reviewed and scored by the Horticultural Review Committee. Ministry reviews and approves list of projects.
- BCFG sends out letter to applicants as to project status, (approved, waitlisted, ineligible).
- Funded projects start tree planting (Spring 2017).
- Onsite inspection with project grower.
- Inspection report determines amount paid out to the maximum approved in application (summer).
- Ministry staff reviews each inspection and provides recommendations for payment;
- Ministry processes payment and administers cheques.

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

2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program applications will be scored based on, but not exclusively, the criteria below:

1. Completeness and meeting program requirements:
 - a. To be eligible for horticultural adjudication and scoring, applications must meet minimum program requirements (please see Section 3a and 4a);
2. Strength and quality of application and likelihood of success;
 - a. Thorough Replant plan
 - b. Whole farm and variety cash flows
 - c. Preference to applications over 1 acre
3. Horticultural soundness
 - a. Preference to applications with bioassay confirmation
 - b. Tree spacing appropriate for variety and location;
4. Variety selection;
5. Submission prior to deadline.

See Appendix B for the 2017/18 Horticultural Score Sheet

Once the funding for the 2017/18 Tree Fruit Replant Program has been fully allocated, the Program will be closed for the year.

d. PROJECT APPROVAL

Following application review and a decision to approve, the Program Administrator delivers approval documents to approved project holders including 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.

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.

- **NOTE:** The Program reserves the right to create an annual wait list once the funding is fully allocated to projects approved. 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. Project changes may not be approved; variety and increases in tree number will not be approved.
3. Modifications to previously approved applications that result in an increase in the replant funding and/or acreage may be reviewed and considered if reviewed by October 31, 2016.
4. Project confirmation form must be submitted by the applicant within 2 weeks of receipt;
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.

e. REPLANTING PROCESS

1. **Project holders must immediately notify the Administrator of project cancellation or any changes to the project tree numbers.**
2. Replant progress (Spring 2017): Confirm completion of tree planting which triggers inspection. The Program may require information 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. Other data as relevant to Replant Program or inspection clarification and follow-up
3. Planting must occur prior to May 31, 2017.

f. 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, 2017 but no later than July 31, 2017. 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;
4. Tree caliper in year of planting.

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 Horticultural 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) are available for the 2017/18 program year on the Ministry website (<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agriculture-business-and-economy/programs/treefruit-replant-program>).

g. REPLANT INSPECTION PROCESS

1. Inspection of replant projects are expected to occur between June-September 2017;
2. The project must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator as per the program requirements and approved project Replant Plan.
3. An Inspector will contact approved project applicants in June-September to arrange a project inspection.
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. Reference the project Replant Plan and application;
 - g. Assess site preparation and overall planting quality;
 - h. Assess weed and pest control;
 - i. May take photos and GPS measurements.
7. Projects that appear to be fraudulent or inaccurate at any point in the Replant Program process will be immediately reported and may be rendered ineligible for payment.

h. PROJECT PAYMENT

1. The Ministry 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 BCFG and Ministry. Payment amount will be subject to several Replant Program requirements such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Survival rate (see below);
 - b. Program maximum number of trees per project;
 - c. Program maximum number of acres per farm operation;
 - d. Proof of payment of royalties owing.
3. Operational Replant Policies
 - a. Percentage Survival, amended August 25, 2015
 Trees are inspected several months after planting to verify spacing, tree numbers, tree growth, and tree survival. Survival rate as per inspection report will affect level of payment as such:
 - i. Projects with greater than 90% tree survival will receive payment at 100% of the inspected amount (with subsequent any adjustments due to density maximums, acreage maximums, and other requirements).
 - ii. Projects with 50 to 90% survival will receive payment at the tree survival rate (i.e. prorated 50 to 90%) for the project. Replacement trees for trees that did not survive are not eligible for replant in subsequent years.
 - iii. Projects with less than 50% tree survival will not receive payment for any portion of the replant project. The grower will be eligible to re-apply on the failed block only if the surviving trees are removed and the entire block is replanted with new tree stock in the subsequent year.
 - b. Replant Project Changes, February 17, 2016
 Changes to project plans made after the Program application deadline risk ineligibility. However, project change eligibility guidelines include:
 - i. A project will remain eligible for payment if there is a reduction in the area planted, with spacing, variety and other factors remaining the same as the submitted project Replant Plan;
 - ii. The location of inspected replant blocks must be the same as the location shown on the application, unless the horticultural advisor and the Program Administrator provide written approval for a change in location and the approvals are completed prior to planting;
 - iii. A project will remain eligible for payment if there is an increase in density of planting; however, the funding available for the project will be limited to the spacing in the original application;
 - iv. A project will remain eligible for payment if there is a change of clear and general accepted improvement to the project submitted Replant Plan. However, to avoid uncertainty, a policy is established that the only approved changes in a submitted Replant Plan are as follows:
 1. Changing from benchgrafts to commercial nursery trees in the applied Program year;
 2. Changing to the Ambrosia apple variety from another apple variety;

3. Changing cherry, pear, or other soft fruit varieties, due to the general interchangeable nature of these varieties.

For overall program evaluation, project holders will be requested to provide ongoing performance data with respect to their project as requested by the Ministry. Ongoing performance data may be requested from the Replant year for the life of the Replant Program.

i. APPEAL PROCESS

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

- **NOTE:** Application review ratings of proposed projects are not subject to appeal.

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.
4. A non-refundable appeal fee of \$300 will be paid by the Appeler to the Administrator (50% of average appeal cost).

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 must be replanted in Spring 2017 and be at least one acre. Smaller areas replanted can be eligible if adding to an existing block and the combined area is greater than one acre, however, only the area planted in the current program year is eligible. 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 replant areas will be considered where for example, an existing block of the same variety is being extended and total block size is greater than one acre, however only the area planted in the current program year is eligible.

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 A – TREE FRUIT GRAFTING AND BUDDING OVER REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

a. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Please see the main 2017/18 BC 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. FUNDING

\$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 and Section 4 of the 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program eligibility and requirements.

d. APPLICATION PROCESS

Same as Section 4 of the 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements with the exception of Section 4f Planting Requirements. Applications should be targeted for the year the trees will meet inspection.

e. REPLANT INSPECTION

Same as Section 4g of the 2017/18 BC 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. PROJECT PAYMENT

Please see Section 4h of the 2017/18 BC 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 4i of the 2017/18 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements.

APPENDIX B – HORTICULTURAL SCORING SHEET

Concept	Rate the Following From 1 (poor or no information) to 10 (excellent)	% Wgt
Variety Value	Current and possible future value of variety(s) in marketplace. Example: Ambrosia will score higher than Gala. Newer varieties of cherries will score higher than Lapin.	20
The Planting	Variety, rootstock, spacing, training system, pollination requirements and soils are appropriately matched for maximum quality and production. Example: 2 feet x 10 feet is common spacing for apples and has demonstrated a balance between investment, efficiency of horticultural practices, and productivity, and 2 feet x 10 feet apple planting will be scored higher than other spacings.	20
Planting System Supports	Irrigation, fertigation, trellis system, wildlife fencing and frost mitigation, as needed, are in place and adequate to support/maintain the planting.	10
Variety Appropriateness	Variety(s) appropriate for growing area from both horticulture and marketing perspective.	8
Pre-planting Preparation	Quality of tree removal, soil testing, soil amending & soil preparation plans.	6
Planting Plan	Quality of nursery tree, tree storage, tree transportation, tree hydration, planting mechanism, planting timing & planting fertilization plans. Applications with trees from a 'home nursery' have greater variability in quality than trees purchased from nurseries. Unless a photo of the home nursery trees is included that shows healthy, good quality trees, a home nursery will be scored lower than trees from a certified commercial nursery.	6
Post-planting Plan	Quality of irrigation use, fertilization & pest control plans.	6
Cash flow	Reasonable assumptions on price, production and input costs that still result in positive cash flow by year 3 to 5.	6
Map	Includes for all blocks in orchard; variety, spacing, age, row orientation and pollinizers. Also includes; North compass point, buildings, surroundings, wild-life fences, wind machines, gullies, hillside etc, and is clear. A sample map of good quality is provided on the BCFGa website.	6
Whole-Farm Planning	The new planting fits in with a whole farm plan that is efficient (larger contiguous blocks). Inclusion of whole farm financial plan. Note: an explanatory note to describe how the current planting fits in with existing and future plantings for the project can lead to a higher score.	6
Application & Extras	Clear, complete, and addresses areas which deviated from norm or provided extra information where required.	6