



Ministry of
Agriculture, Food
and Fisheries

2020
**B.C. Cherry and
Apple Acreage Report**



Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction 3
 - 1.1 Focus Regions
- 2. Tree Fruit Acreage Overview 4
 - 2.1 Tree Fruit Acreage by Commodity
 - 2.2 Tree Fruit Acreage by Region
 - 2.3 Changes in Acreage Over Time
 - 2.4 Replant Trends
 - 2.5 Competing Agricultural Land Use – Wine Grapes
- 3. Cherry Industry 11
 - 3.1 Trends in Acreage by Variety, Year, and Region
 - 3.2 Replant Trends by Variety and Year
 - 3.3 Average Yield per Acre Over Time
 - 3.4 Trends in Exports and Imports
- 4. Apple Industry..... 19
 - 4.1 Trends in Acreage by Variety, Year, and Region
 - 4.2 Replant Trends by Variety and Year
 - 4.3 Average Yield Per Acre Over Time
 - 4.4 Trends in Exports and Imports
- 5. Global Overview..... 26
 - 5.1 Top Apple and Cherry Producing Countries
 - 5.2 Cross-Jurisdictional Comparison
- 6. Conclusions..... 29
- 7. Sources..... 31

1. *Introduction*

This report is intended to demonstrate trends in the B.C. tree fruit industry, and to be used as a resource and planning tool for future industry initiatives.

The tree fruit acreage data were collected by the BC Ministry of Agriculture from 2011 to 2020. Other data were collected from a range of sources, including Statistics Canada, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United States Department of Agriculture, and from publications released on behalf of grower organizations. See page 31 for a full list of sources.

While we believe these data to be sufficiently accurate to demonstrate trends, we note that the multiple sources of data at times presented conflicting information.

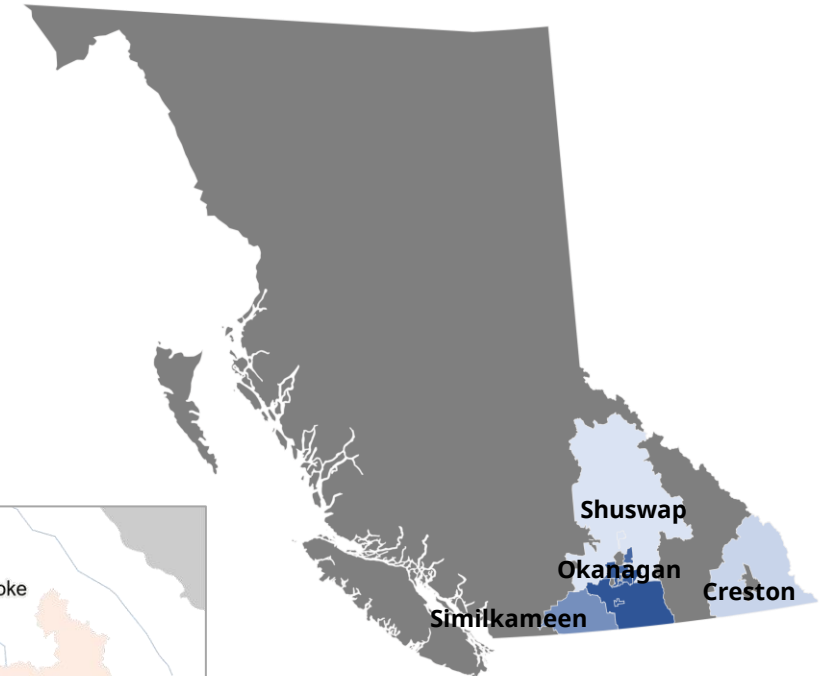
1.1 Focus Regions

Tree fruit production occurs in many regions of B.C., however, this report focuses on B.C.'s primary tree fruit production areas.

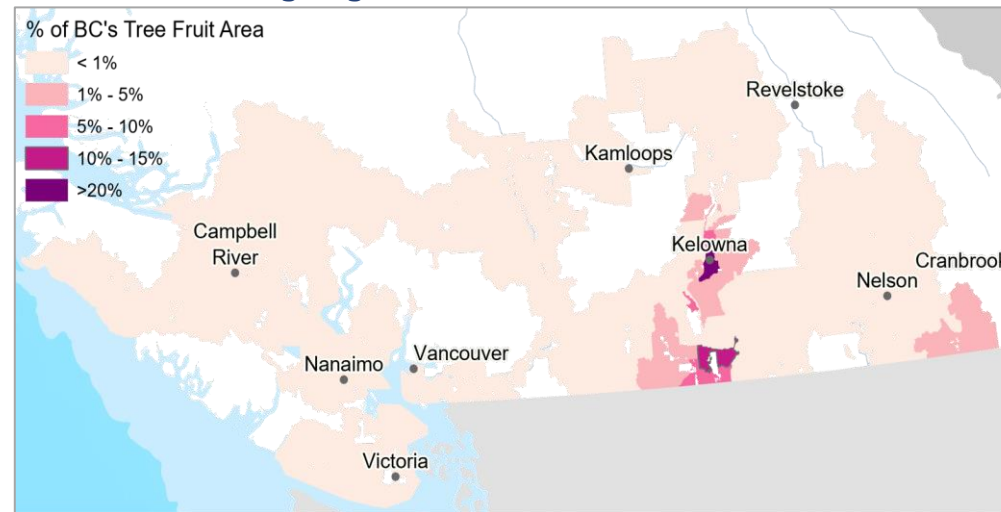
Regions are classified as follows:

- North Okanagan: Armstrong to Lake Country
- Central Okanagan: Kelowna to Peachland
- South Okanagan: Summerland to Osoyoos
- Similkameen: Keremeos and Cawston
- Shuswap: Salmon Arm to Sicamous
- Creston: Creston Valley

Primary Tree Fruit Growing Regions of B.C.



Tree Fruit Growing Regions of BC



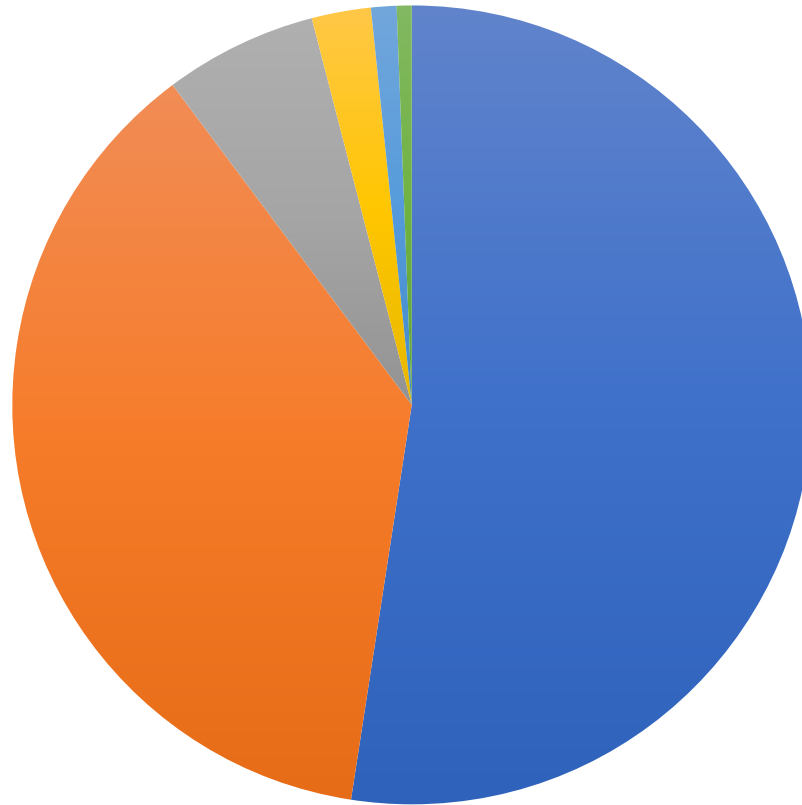
2. 2020 B.C. Tree Fruit Acreage Overview

Key Findings

- There are 12,840 acres in tree fruit production in B.C.
 - 52% apples
 - 37% cherries
 - 6% peaches
 - 2% pears
 - 1% plums
 - 1% apricots
- The largest proportion of apple acreage is found in the Central Okanagan.
- The North, Central, and South Okanagan have the largest proportion of cherry acreage.
- The proportion of pear acreage is largest in the Central Okanagan.
- The South Okanagan has the largest proportion of peach, plum and apricot acreage.
- Since 2015, cherry acreage has increased by 1,038 acres (28%). Acreage of all other commodities has decreased, except plum, which has not changed.
- Wine grapes account for a greater acreage than tree fruits in B.C., overall. Most of this acreage is in the South Okanagan. In other regions, tree fruits make up a larger proportion of acreage.
- Cherry and wine grape acreage is increasing, while apple acreage is decreasing.

2.1 Tree Fruit Acreage by Commodity

Breakdown of Tree Fruit Acreage by Commodity



■ Apple ■ Cherry ■ Peach ■ Pear ■ Plum ■ Apricot

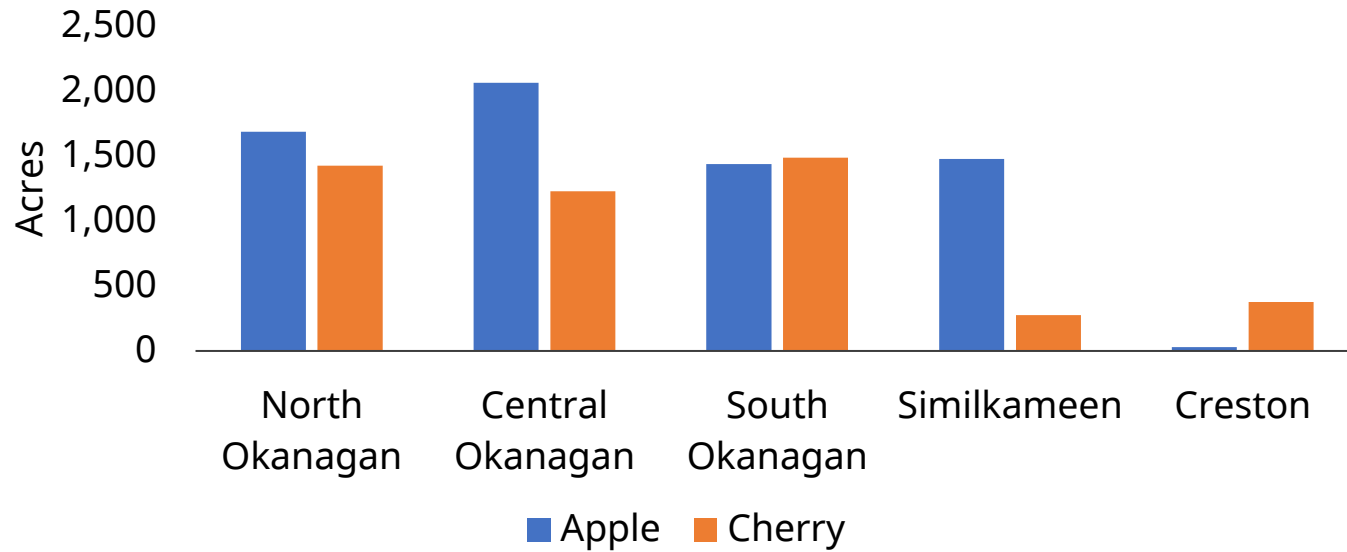
In 2020, there was a total of 12,840 acres in tree fruit production in B.C.

Acreage breakdown:

- 52% apples
- 37% cherries
- 6% peaches
- 2% pears
- 1% plums
- 1% apricots

2.2 Tree Fruit Acreage by Region

2020 Apple and Cherry Acreage by Region



- Apple and Cherry remain the dominant tree fruit commodities in B.C., and account for 90% of total acreage.
- The majority of tree fruit production in B.C. occurs in the North, Central and South Okanagan Valley, as well as the Similkameen Valley.
- Cherry acreage is greatest in the South and North Okanagan, and apple acreage is greatest in the Central Okanagan.

2020 Tree Fruit Acreage by Region*

	Shuswap	North Okanagan	Central Okanagan	South Okanagan	Similkameen	Creston
Apple	42	1,684	2,062	1,437	1,476	30
Cherry	3	1,424	1,228	1,486	277	378
Peach	-	17	13	506	259	1
Pear	-	15	178	37	78	-
Plum	-	1	4	95	32	1
Apricot	-	-	-	53	24	-
Total	45	3,139	3,484	3,614	2,146	409

* " - " indicates that commercial acreage is negligible.

2.3 Changes in Acreage Over Time

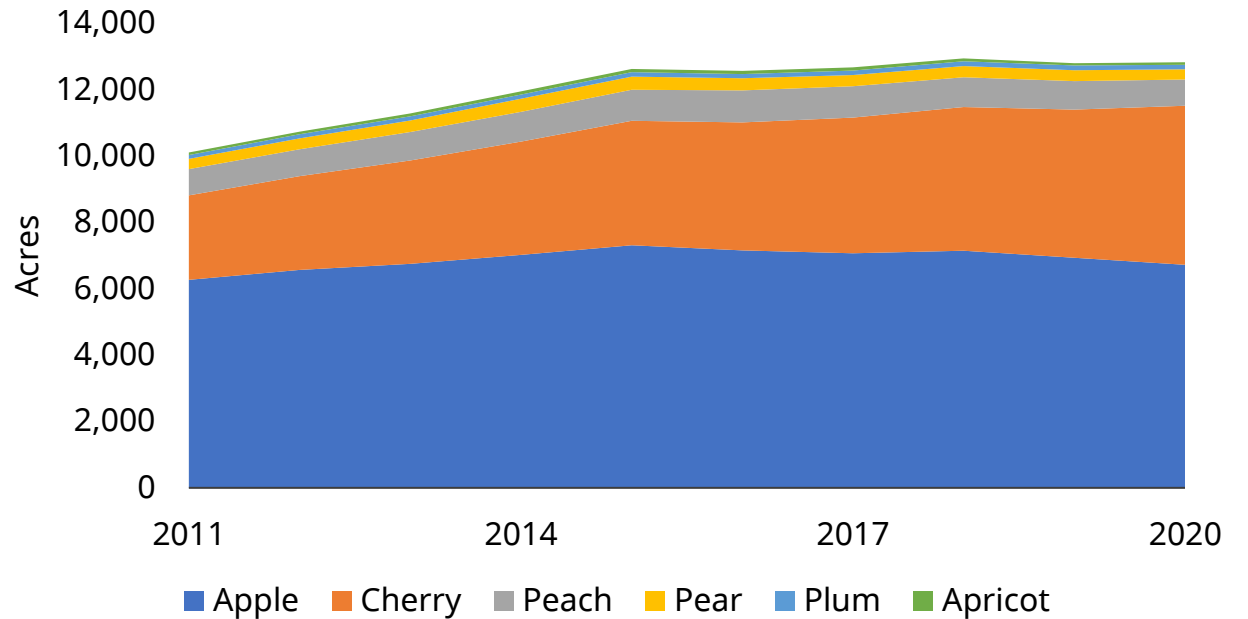
Changes by commodity since 2015:

- 28% increase in cherry acreage
- 8% decrease in apple acreage
- 15% decrease in peach acreage
- 22% decrease in pear acreage
- 0% change in plum acreage
- 18% decrease in apricot acreage

Acreage by Commodity 2015-2020

Year	Apple	Cherry	Peach	Pear	Plum	Apricot	Total
2015	7,315	3,757	938	396	132	95	12,633
2016	7,161	3,865	961	365	134	97	12,582
2017	7,080	4,090	940	338	143	93	12,684
2018	7,158	4,326	904	336	145	86	12,955
2019	6,944	4,466	864	326	137	75	12,813
2020	6,732	4,795	795	308	132	78	12,839

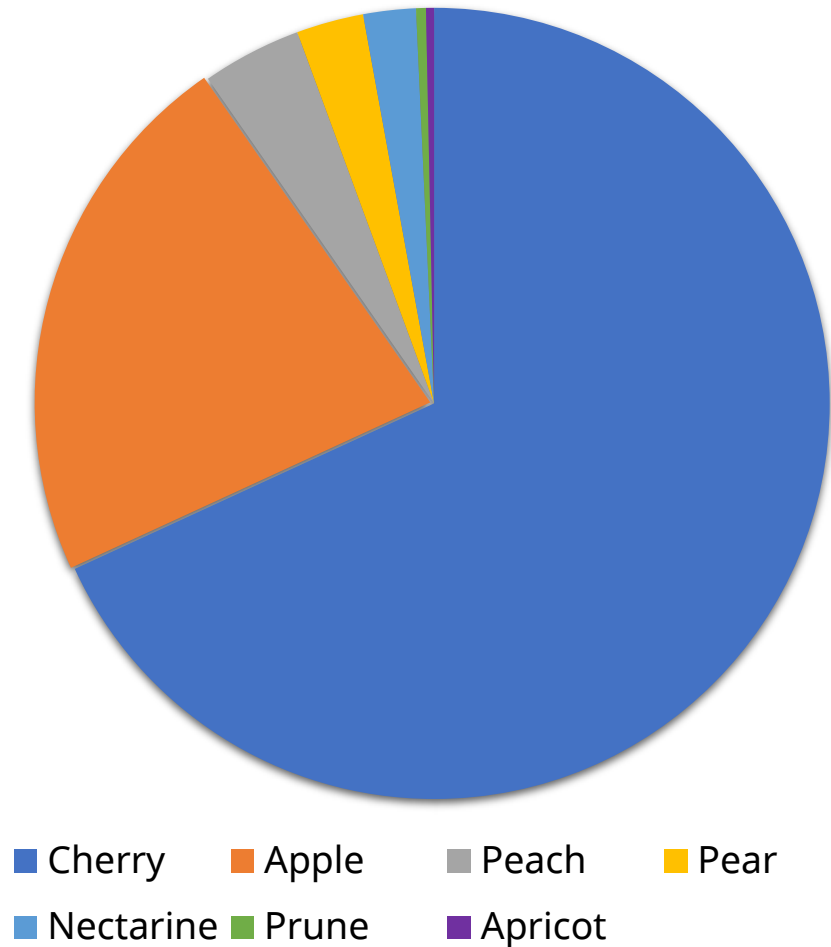
Tree Fruit Acreage from 2011 to 2020



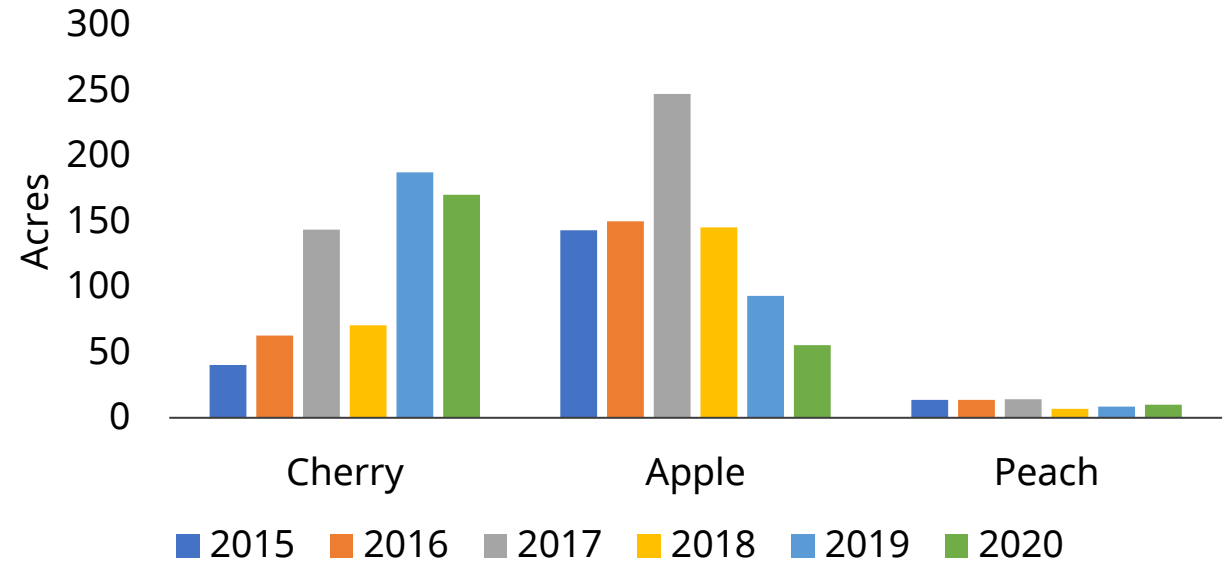
Since 2011, total tree fruit acreage in B.C. has increased by 27% from 10,116 acres to 12,840 acres. Since 2015, tree fruit acreage has increased by 2% from 12,633 acres to 12,839 acres.

2.4 Replant Trends

2020 Commodities Selected for Replant



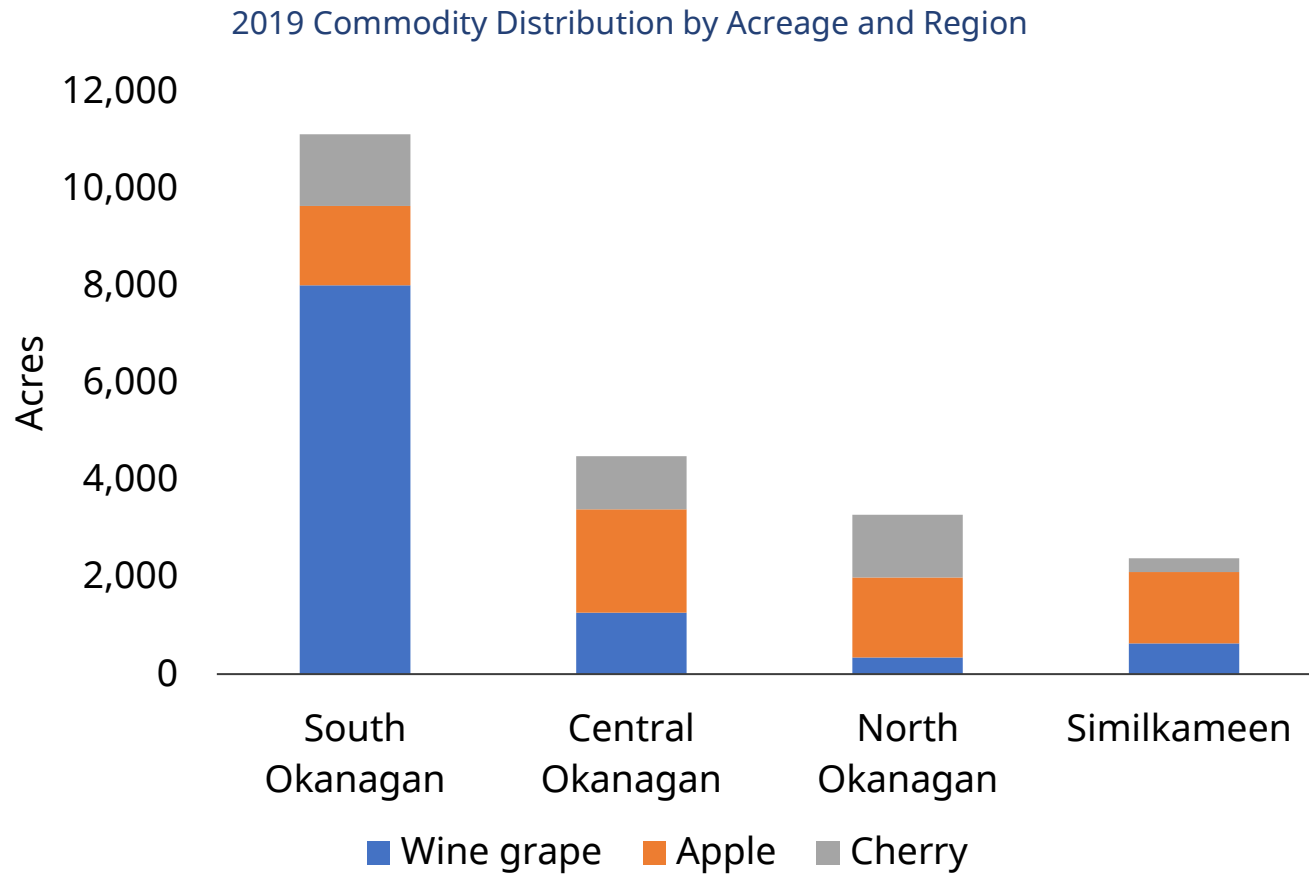
Acres Replanted with Top 3 Commodities by Year



Acres approved for replant grants 2015-2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Since 2015
Cherry	40	63	144	71	188	170	676
Apple	143	150	247	145	93	55	835
Peach	14	14	14	7	9	10	68
Pear	3	2	3	4	6	7	24
Nectarine	4	2	6	0	7	5	24
Prune	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Apricot	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
All	207	230	415	227	303	250	1,632

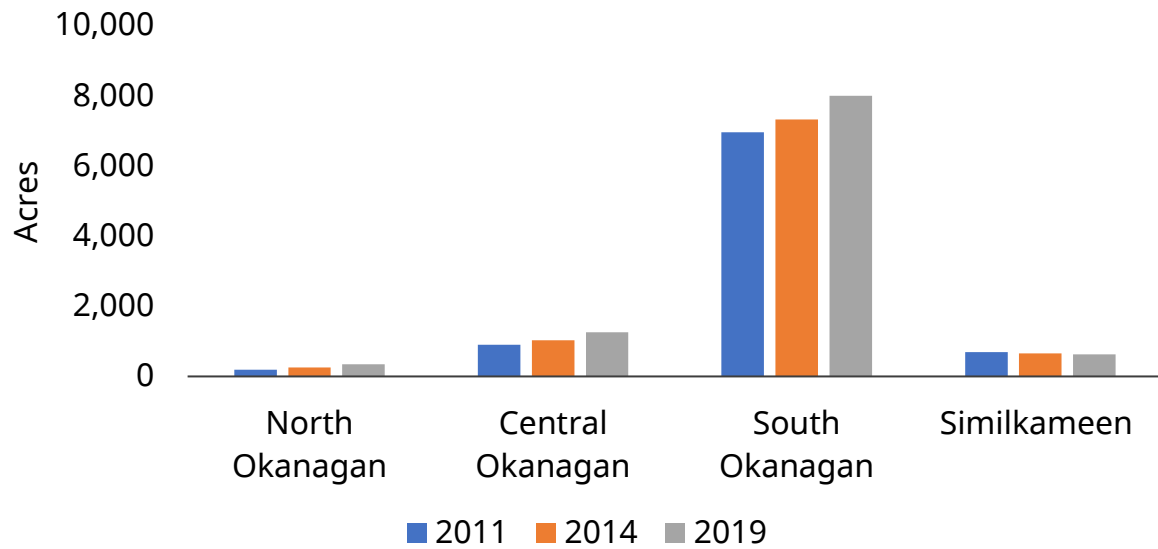
2.5 Competing Agricultural Land Use – Wine Grapes



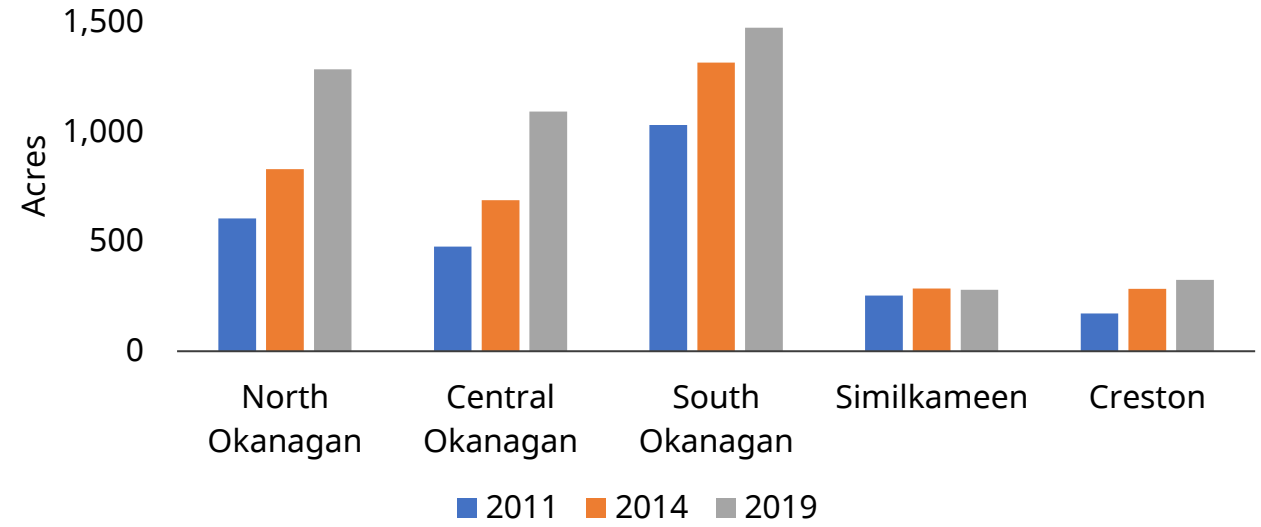
2019 Commodity by Acreage

Region	Wine grape	Apple	Cherry
South Okanagan	8,007	1,633	1,476
Central Okanagan	1,265	2,127	1,094
North Okanagan	345	1,647	1,287
Similkameen	633	1,473	281
Total	10,250	6,870	4,137

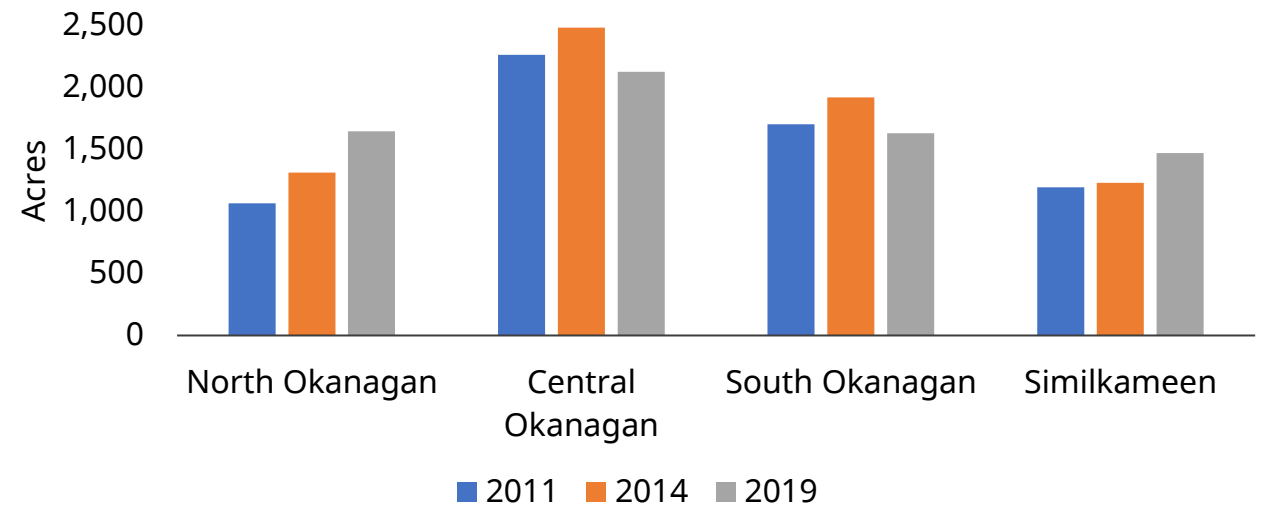
Wine Grape Acreage by Region and Year



Cherry Acreage by Region and Year



Apple Acreage by Region and Year



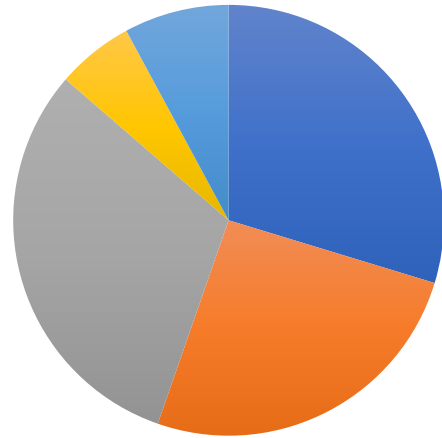
3. *Cherry Industry*

Key Findings

- There are 4,795 acres of cherries in B.C.
 - 30% in the North Okanagan
 - 26% in the Central Okanagan
 - 31% in the South Okanagan
 - 8% in Creston
 - 6% in the Similkameen
- Top 5 cherry varieties in order of acres
 - Staccato
 - Lapins
 - Sweetheart
 - Sentennial
 - Skeena
- Since 2011, the Central Okanagan has experienced the greatest increase in cherry acreage, followed by the North Okanagan and Creston.
- Staccato and Sentennial make up the majority of replanted acreage. Acreage of both varieties has increased steadily since 2011.
- In 2020, total export value of Canadian cherries was \$72 million CAD. Total import value of cherries into Canada was \$199 million CAD.

3.1 Trends in Acreage by Variety, Year, and Region

2020 Cherry Acreage by Region



■ North Okanagan ■ Central Okanagan ■ South Okanagan ■ Similkameen ■ Creston

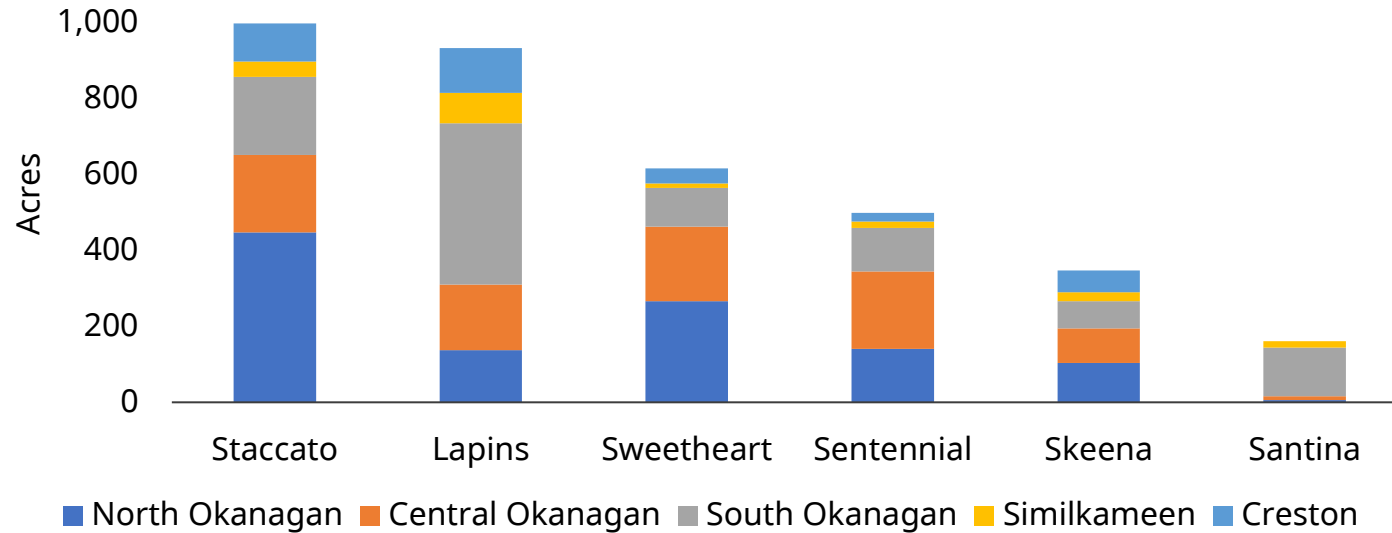
Percent Breakdown of Variety per Region

Region	Staccato	Lapins	Sweetheart	Sentennial	Skeena	Santina	Other
North Okanagan	31%	10%	19%	10%	7%	0%	23%
Central Okanagan	17%	14%	16%	17%	7%	1%	29%
South Okanagan	14%	29%	7%	8%	5%	9%	30%
Similkameen	15%	29%	4%	6%	8%	6%	32%
Creston	26%	31%	11%	6%	15%	0%	11%

Breakdown of Variety by Acreage

Variety	Acres	% of Cherry Acreage
Staccato	1257	26.2%
Lapins	933	19.5%
Sweetheart	617	12.9%
Sentennial	499	10.4%
Skeena	347	7.2%
Santina	161	3.4%
Cristalina	150	3.1%
Tieton	90	1.9%
Regina	84	1.8%
Rainier	72	1.5%
Satin	66	1.4%
Kordia	64	1.3%
Sovereign	61	1.3%
Van	60	1.2%
Chelan	57	1.2%
Benton	42	0.9%
Suite Note	39	0.8%
Kootenay	36	0.8%
Sandra Rose	26	0.5%
Sylvia	25	0.5%

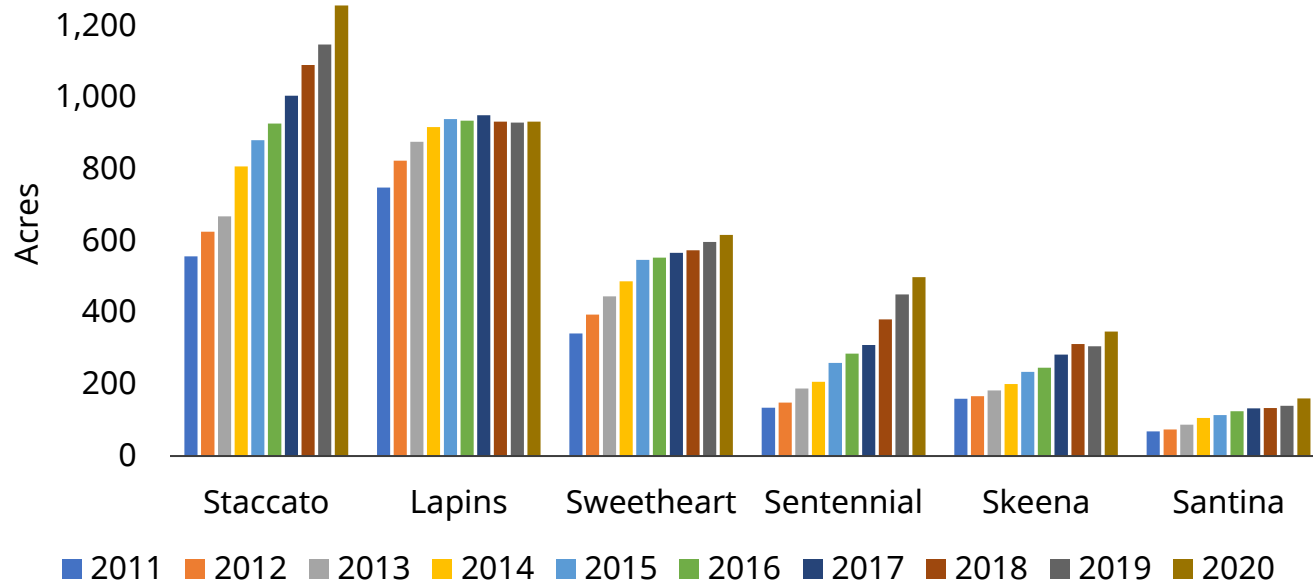
2020 Cherry Acreage by Region and Variety



Since 2011, cherry acreage has increased overall by 88% from 2,548 acres to 4,795 acres in 2020. Changes by region are as follows:

- 44% in the South Okanagan
- 135% in the North Okanagan
- 157% in the Central Okanagan
- 120% in Creston
- 9% in the Similkameen Valley

Cherry Acreage by Variety

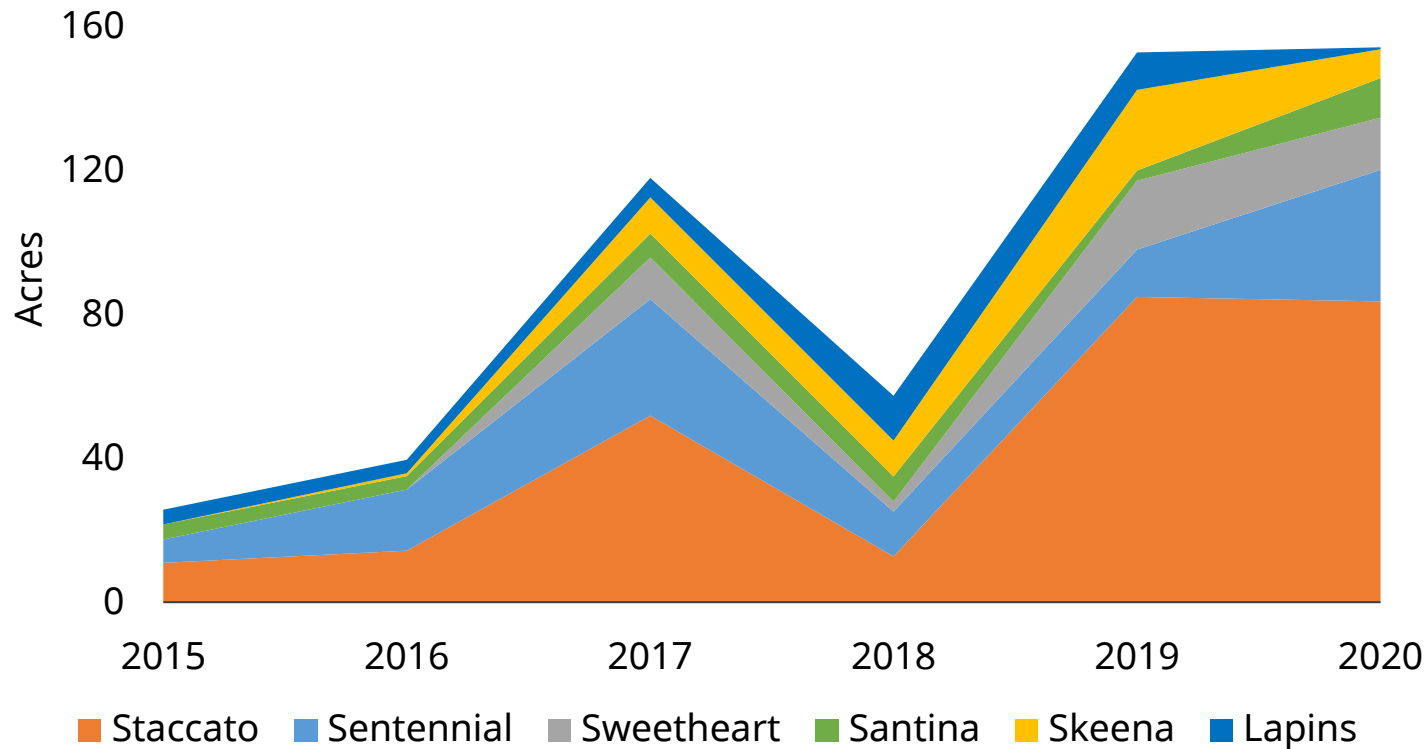


Region	2020 Total Cherry Acres	Average Maturity
North Okanagan	1,424	87%
Central Okanagan	1,228	72%
South Okanagan	1,486	88%
Similkameen	277	98%
Creston	378	93%

Acreage of later-season varieties is increasing. This includes Staccato, Sweetheart and Sentennial.

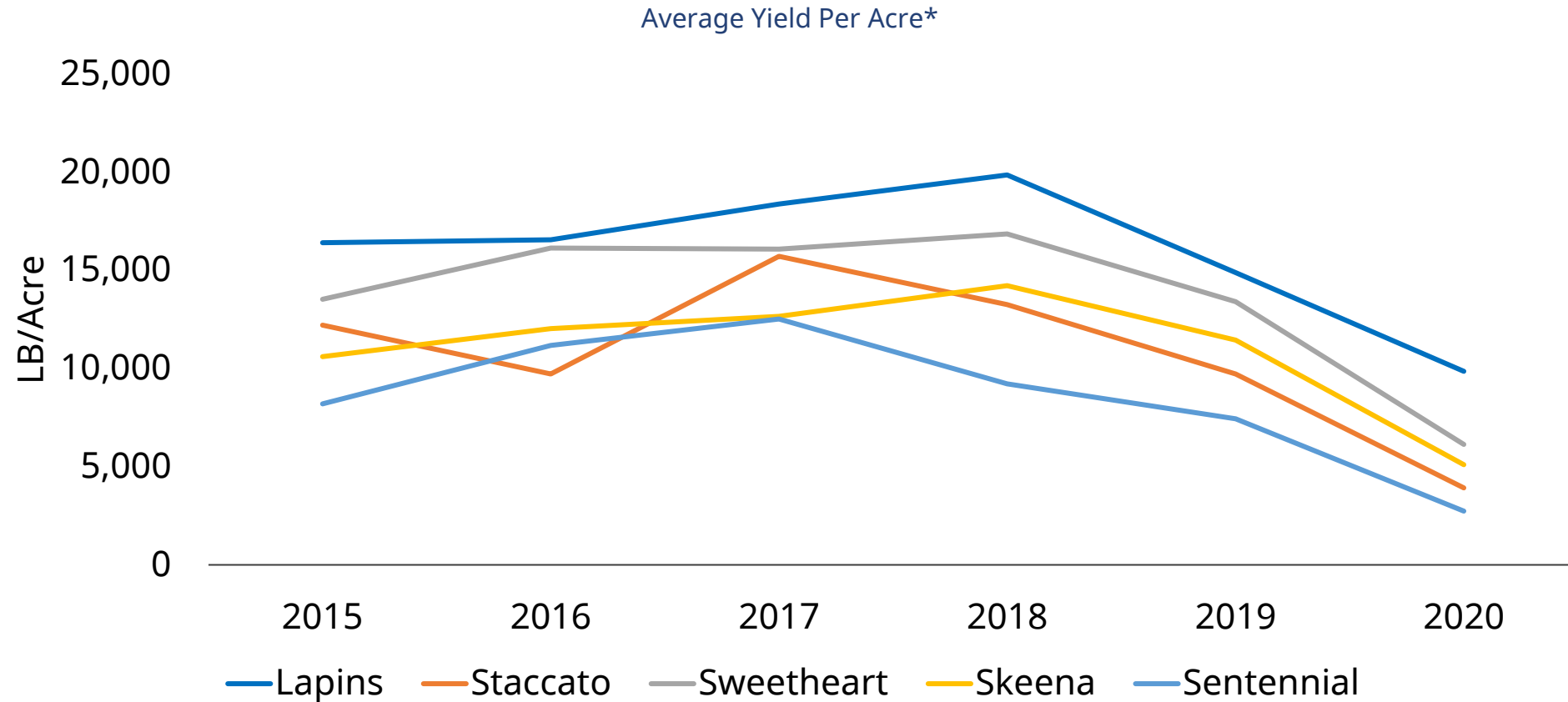
3.2 Replant Trends by Variety and Year

Acreage Replanted to Cherry 2015-2020



- Since 2015, a total of 676 cherry acres have been planted through the government-funded tree fruit replant program.
- Top 3 replanted varieties in 2020 by order of acres:
 - Staccato- 46%
 - Sentennial- 18%
 - Sweetheart- 9%

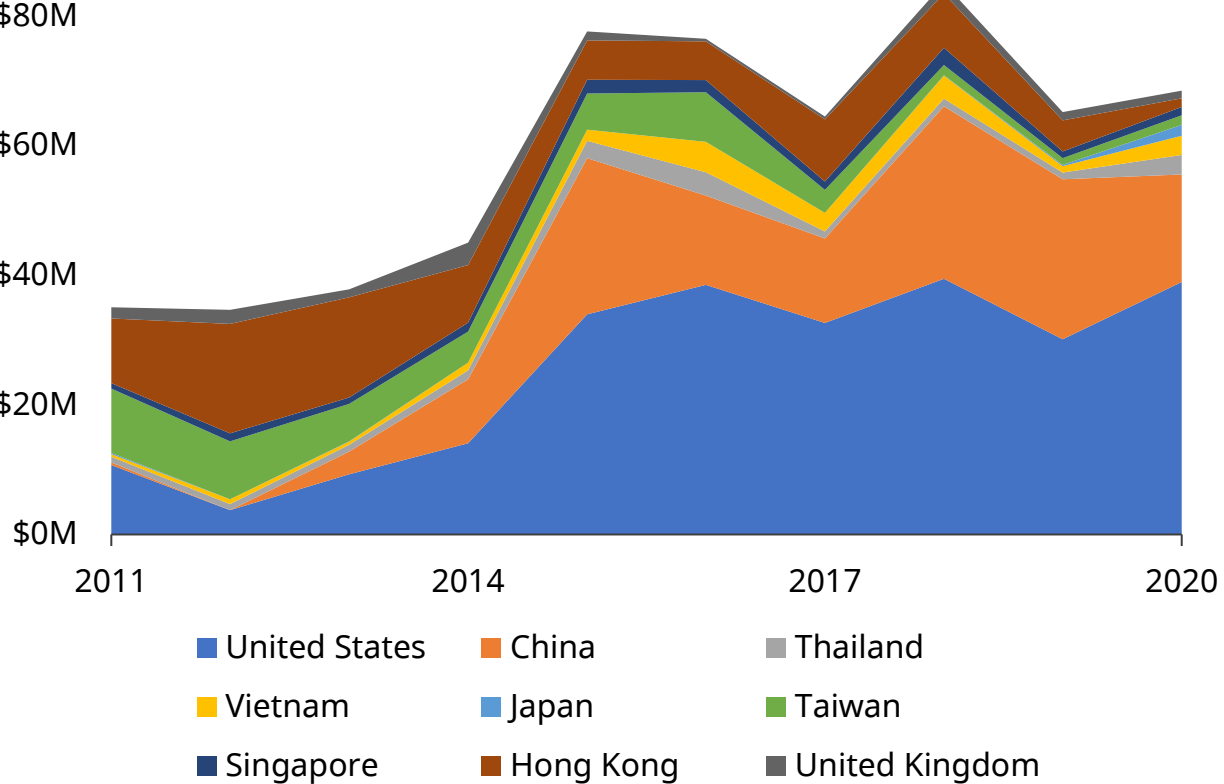
3.3 Average Yield Per Acre Over Time



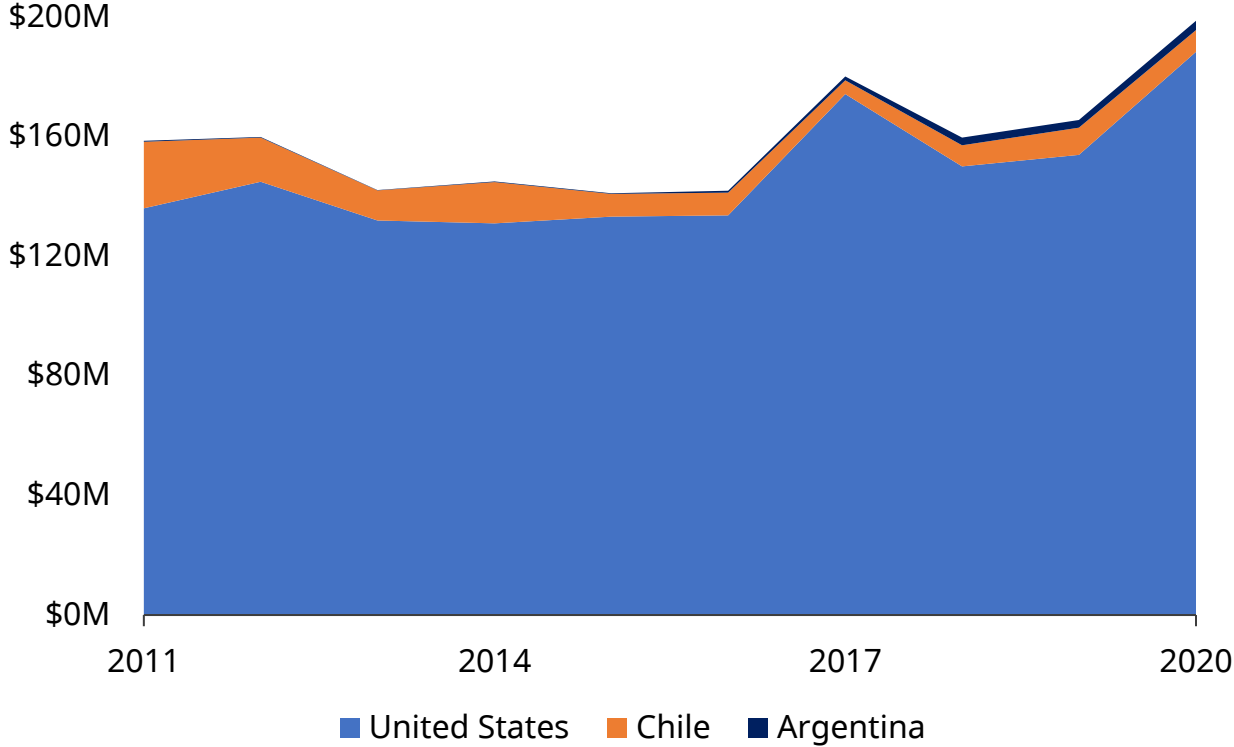
* 2019 and 2020 were anomalous years. In 2019, yield per acre was greatly reduced by severe rain events. In 2020, yield per acre was greatly reduced by acute bud damage during a spring frost event.

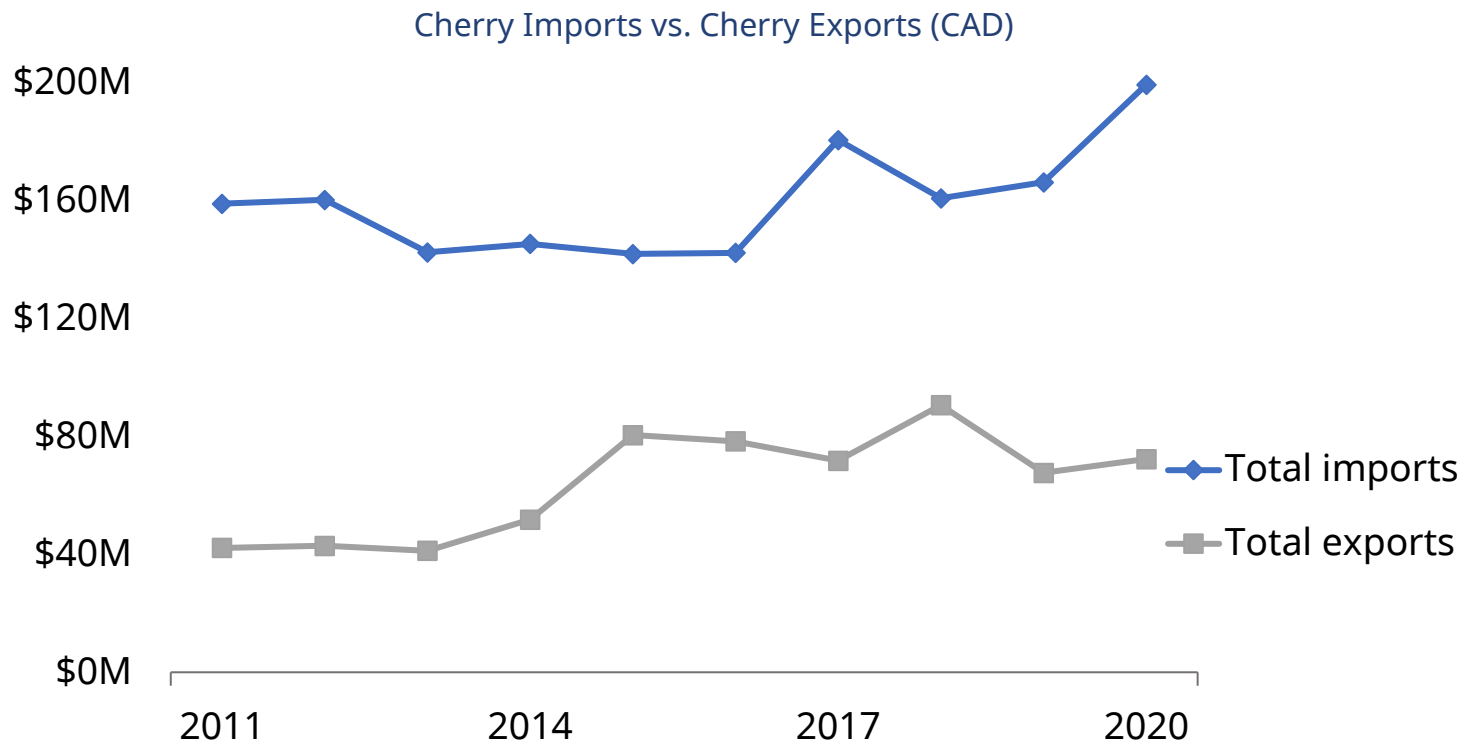
3.4 Trends in exports and imports

Canadian Cherry Exports from 2011-2020 (CAD)



Cherry Imports into Canada from 2011-2020 (CAD)





- Since 2011, cherry imports have increased by 25%, and cherry exports have increased by 75%.
- In 2020, the total export value of Canadian cherries was \$72 million CAD, and cherries were exported to 23 different countries. Exports to the United States accounted for 54% of the total value.
- In 2020, total cherry imports into Canada were valued at \$199 million CAD. Cherries were imported from 9 different countries. Imports from the United States accounted for 95% of total imported value.

4. *Apple Industry*

Key Findings

- There are 6,731 acres of apples in B.C.
 - 25% in the North Okanagan
 - 30% in the Central Okanagan
 - 21% in the South Okanagan
 - 22% in the Similkameen
 - 1% in the Shuswap
 - 0.5% in Creston

Since 2011, the South and Central Okanagan have decreased in apple acreage, whereas apple acreage in the North Okanagan and Similkameen has increased. Overall, apple acreage has increased since 2011, but decreased since 2015.

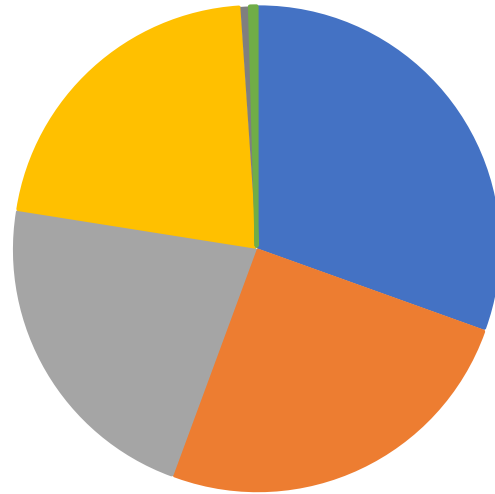
Together, Ambrosia and Gala make up 68% of apple acreage in B.C.

Replants to apple began decreasing in 2017.

In 2020, total export value of Canadian apples was \$42 million CAD. Total import value of apples into Canada was \$253 million CAD.

4.1 Trends in Acreage by Variety, Year, and Region

2020 Apple Acreage by Region



■ Central Okanagan ■ North Okanagan ■ Similkameen ■ South Okanagan ■ Shushwap ■ Creston

Percent Breakdown of Variety per Region*

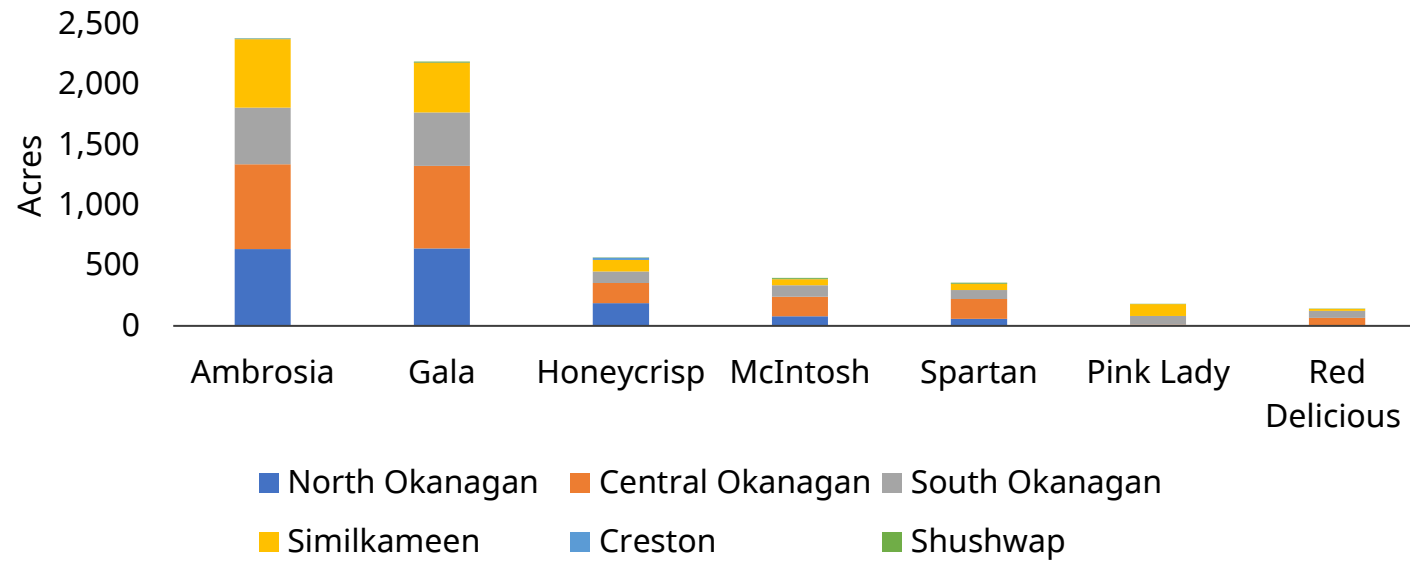
Region	Ambrosia	Gala	Honeycrisp	McIntosh	Spartan	Pink Lady	Other
North Okanagan	38%	38%	11%	5%	4%	-	5%
Central Okanagan	34%	33%	8%	8%	8%	1%	8%
South Okanagan	33%	31%	7%	7%	5%	5%	13%
Similkameen	39%	28%	7%	3%	3%	7%	13%
Creston	16%	5%	61%	6%	1%	-	10%
Shushwap	3%	18%	5%	23%	18%	-	33%

* " - " indicates that variety represents less than 0.05% of apple acreage.

Breakdown of Variety by Acreage

Variety	Acres	% of Total Acreage
Ambrosia	2385	35.4%
Gala	2193	32.6%
Honeycrisp	529	7.9%
McIntosh	400	5.9%
Spartan	358	5.3%
Pink Lady	194	2.9%
Red Delicious	145	2.2%
Granny Smith	124	1.8%
Fuji	98	1.5%
Sunrise	79	1.2%
Golden Delicious	49	0.7%
Gingergold	25	0.4%
Salish	20	0.3%
Jonagold	14	0.2%
Nicola	13	0.2%

2020 Apple Acreage by Variety and Region



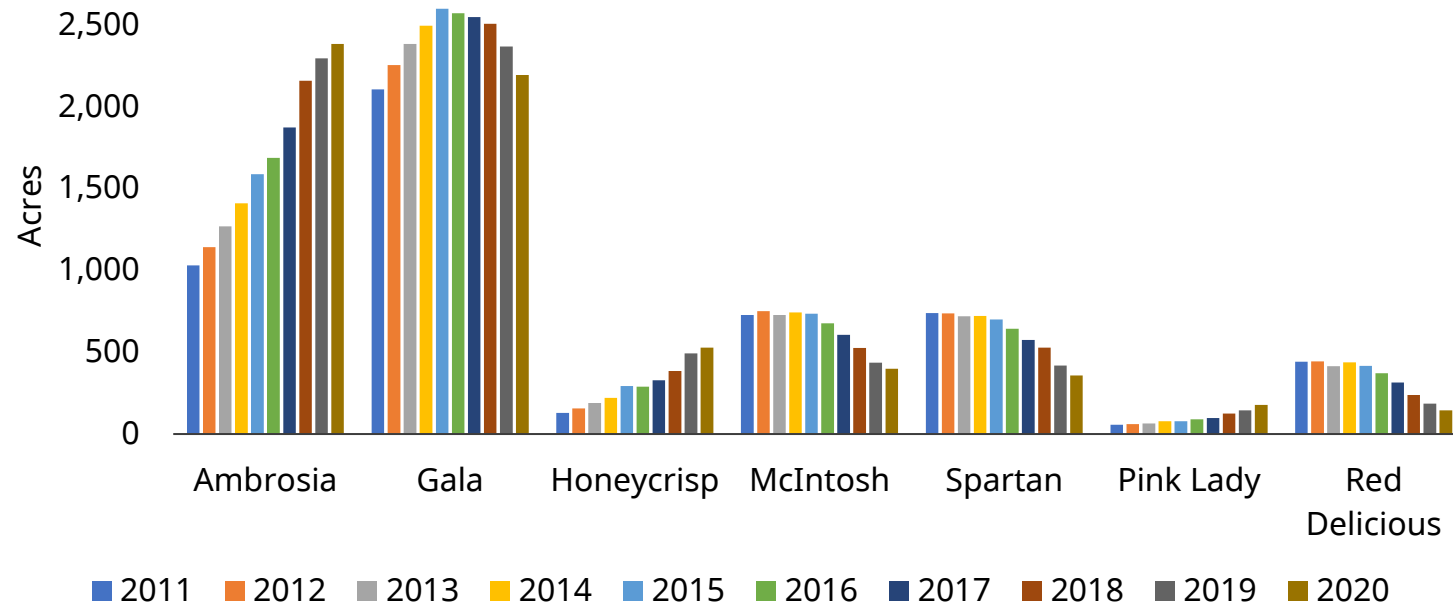
Since 2011, apple acreage has increased overall by 7% from 6,275 acres to 6,731 acres in 2020. Changes by region are as follows:

- -16% in the South Okanagan
- 58% in the North Okanagan
- -9% in the Central Okanagan
- 24% in the Similkameen Valley

Apple acreage has increased in Creston and the Shushwap.

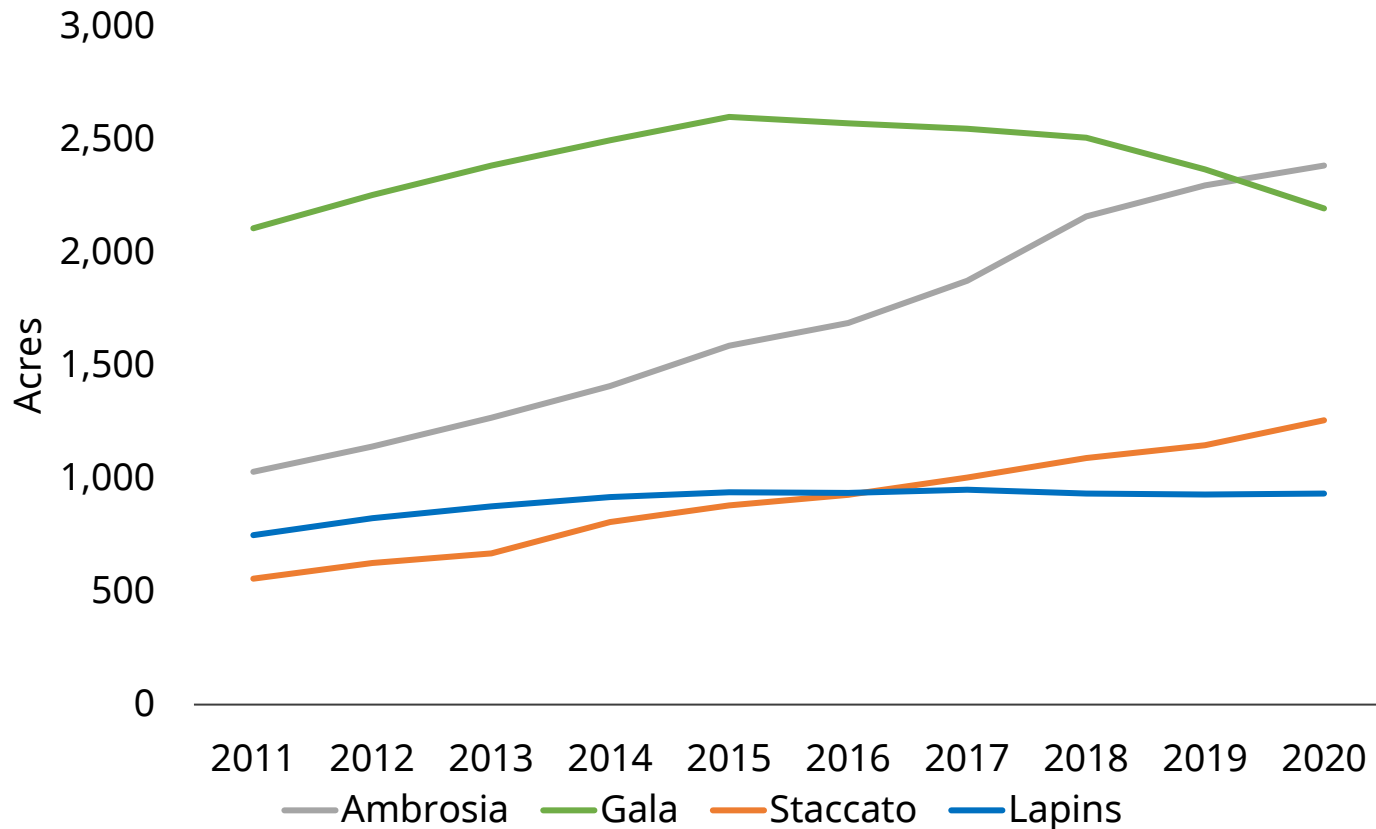
Since 2015, apple acreage has decreased by 8%.

Apple Acreage by Variety and Year



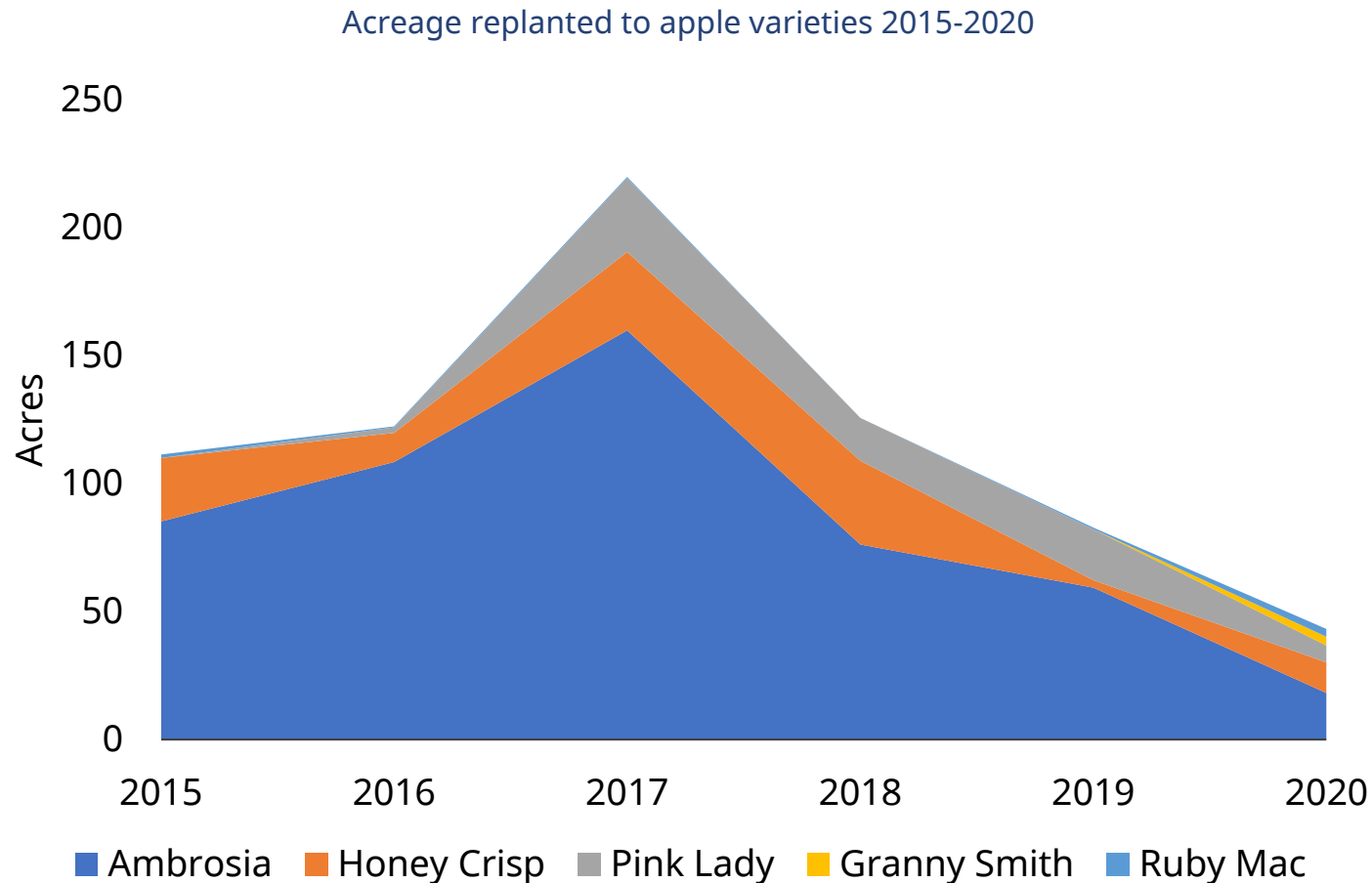
Region	2020 Total Apple Acreage	Average Maturity
North Okanagan	1,692	92%
Central Okanagan	2,051	93%
South Okanagan	1,442	92%
Similkameen	1,472	91%
Shushwap	42	96%
Creston	30	81%

Trends in Top Varieties



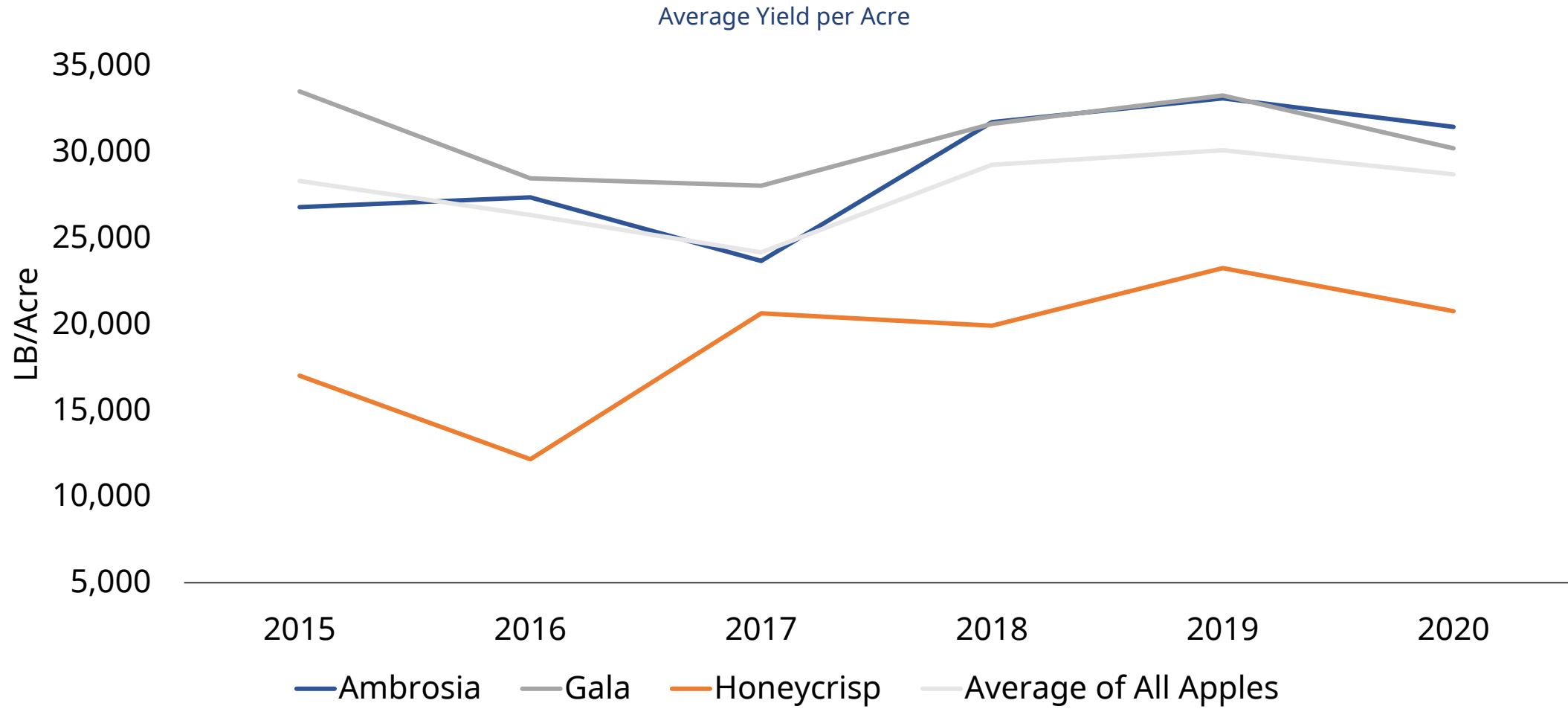
- Staccato is the most widely planted cherry variety in B.C. It surpassed Lapins in popularity in 2017.
- There are approximately 1,127 more acres of Ambrosia, the most widely grown apple variety, than acres of Staccato.
- Since 2015, Staccato acreage increased by 43% and Ambrosia acreage increased by 50%.
- Since 2015, Lapins acreage decreased by 1% and Gala acreage decreased by 16%.

4.2 Replant Trends by Variety and Year



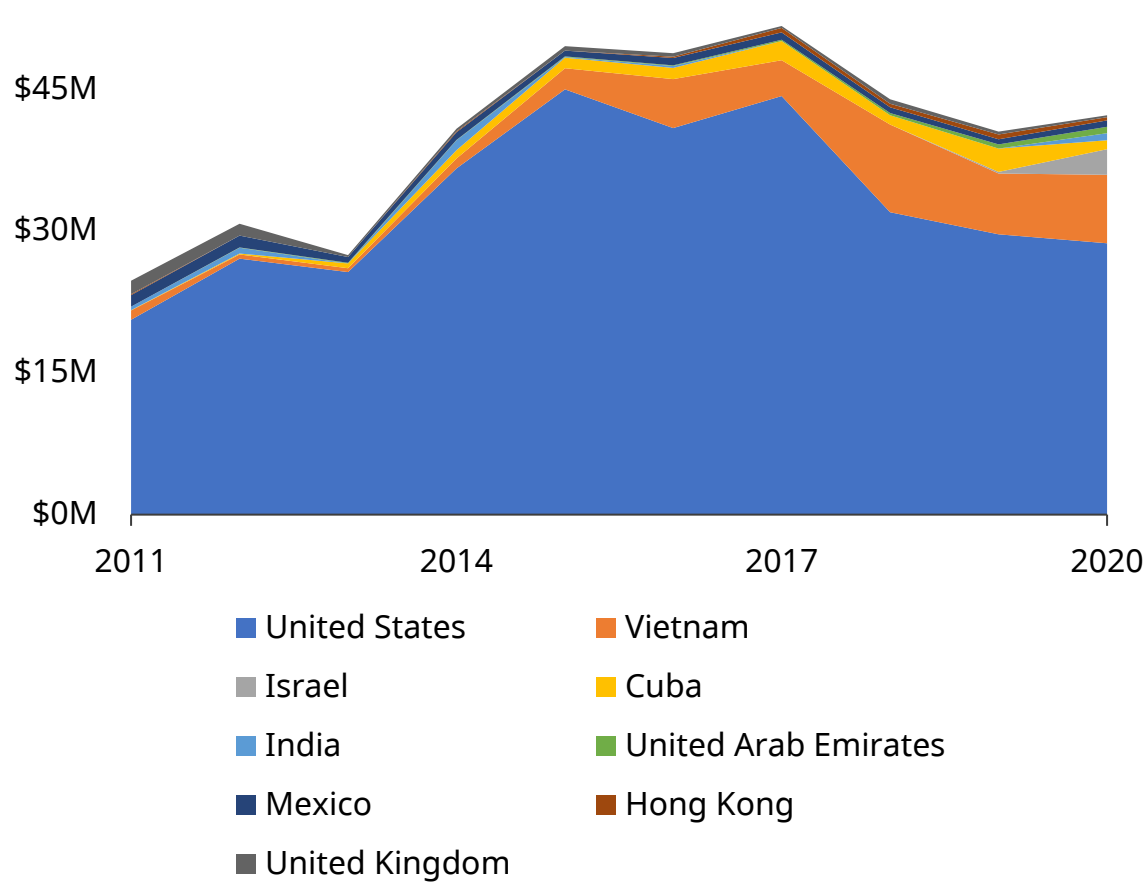
- Since 2015, a total of 835 apple acres have been planted through the government-funded tree fruit replant program.
- Replants to apples have decreased steadily since 2017.
- Top 3 replanted varieties in 2020 by order of acres:
 - Ambrosia- 35%
 - Honeycrisp- 23%
 - Pink Lady- 13%

4.3 Average Yield Per Acre Over Time

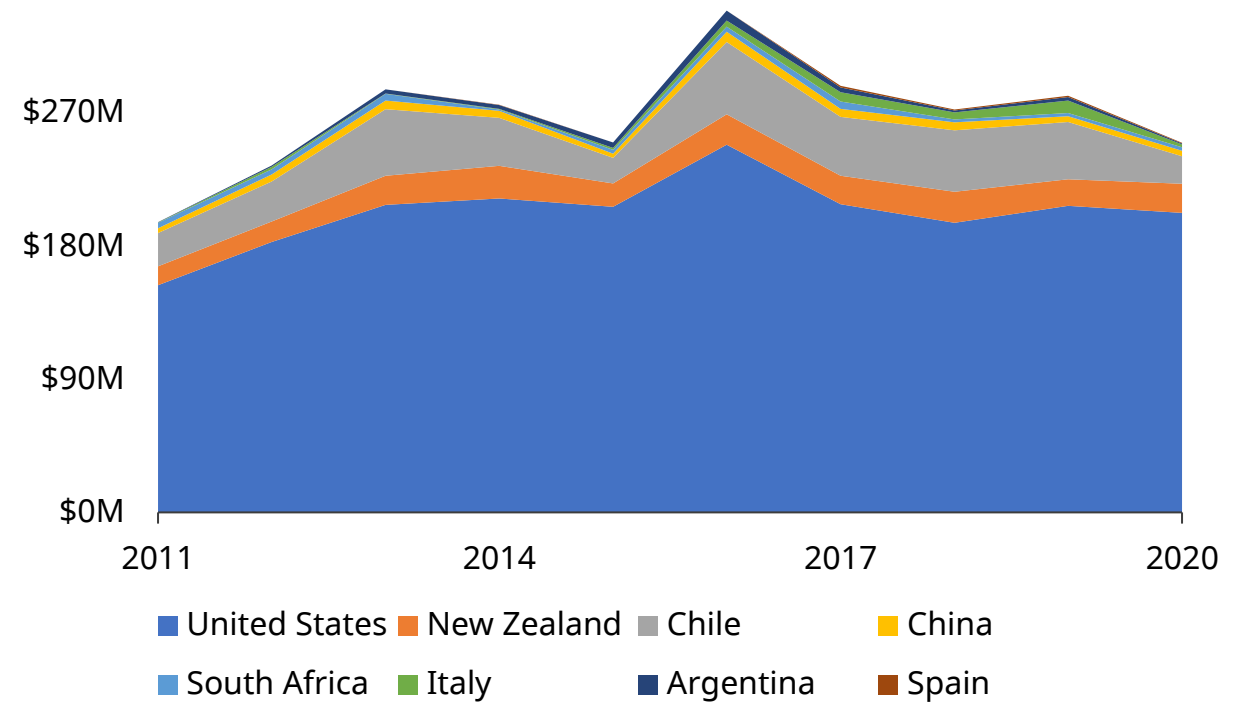


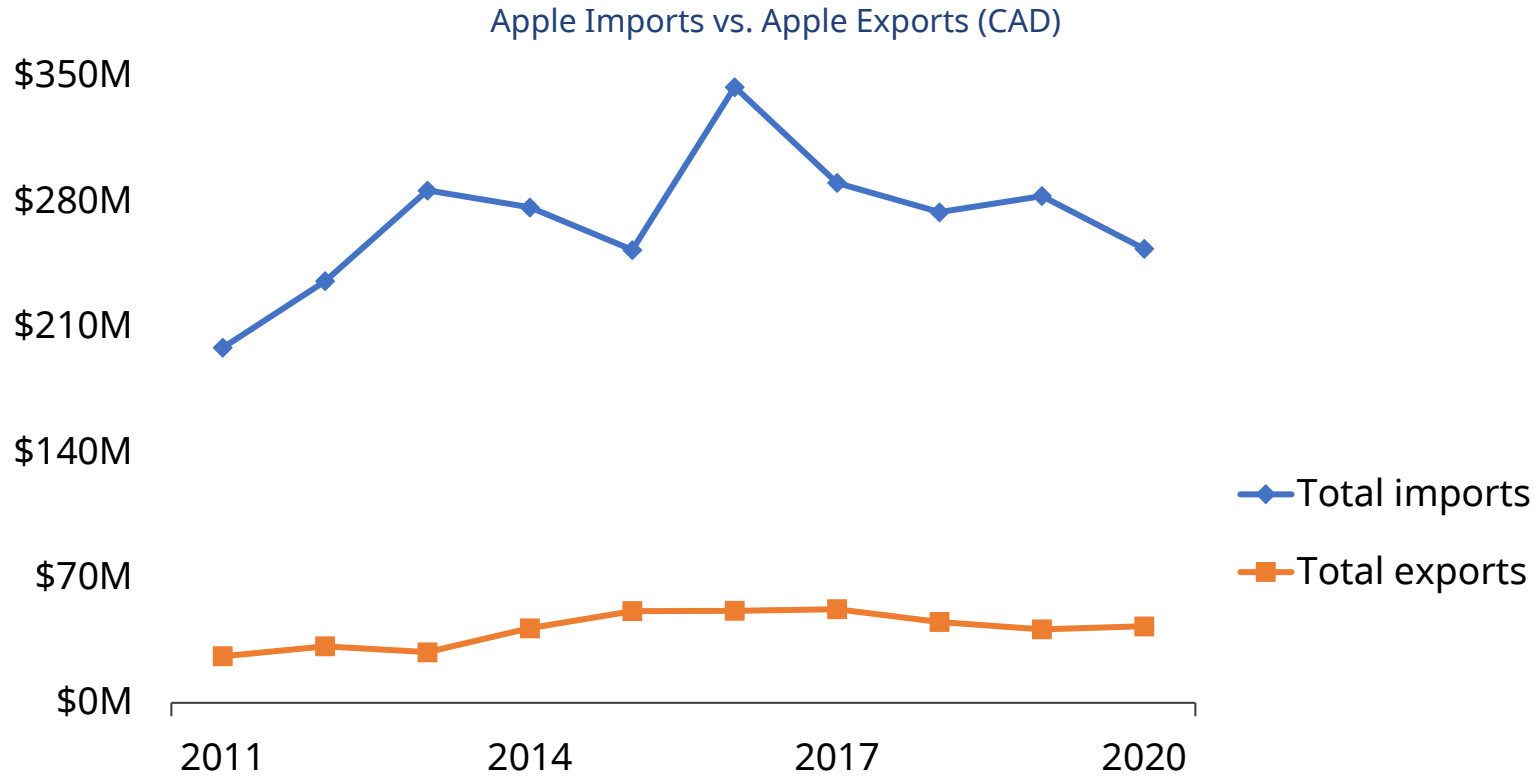
4.4 Trends in exports and imports

Canadian Apple Exports from 2011 to 2020 (CAD)



Apple Imports into Canada from 2011 to 2020 (CAD)





- Since 2011, apple imports have increased by 28%, overall. Apple exports have increased by 68%.
- In 2020, the total export value of Canadian apples was \$42 million CAD, and apples were exported to 17 different countries. Exports to the United States accounted for 67% of the total value.
- In 2020, total apple imports into Canada were valued at \$253 million CAD. Apples were imported from 13 different countries. Imports from the United States accounted for 80% of total imported value.

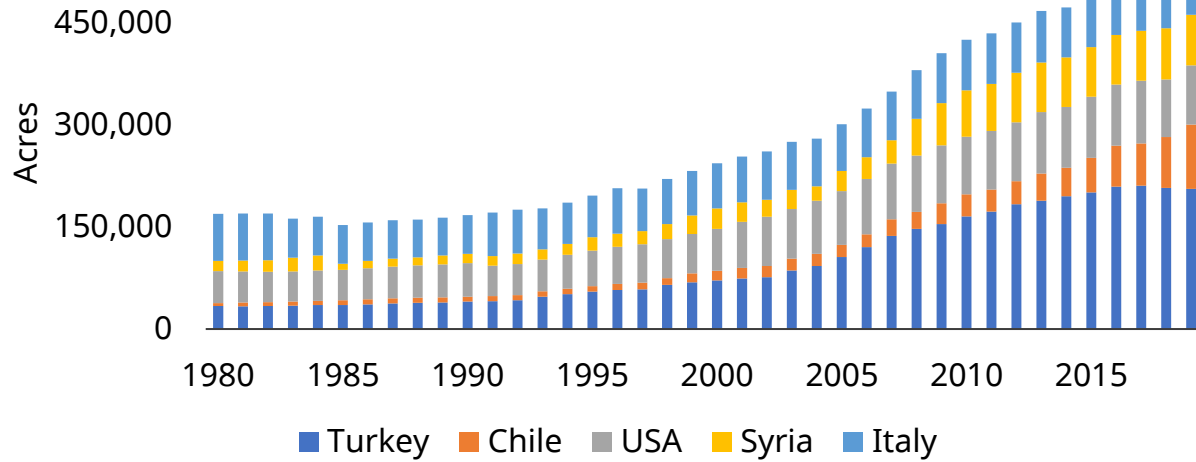
5. *Global Overview*

Key Findings

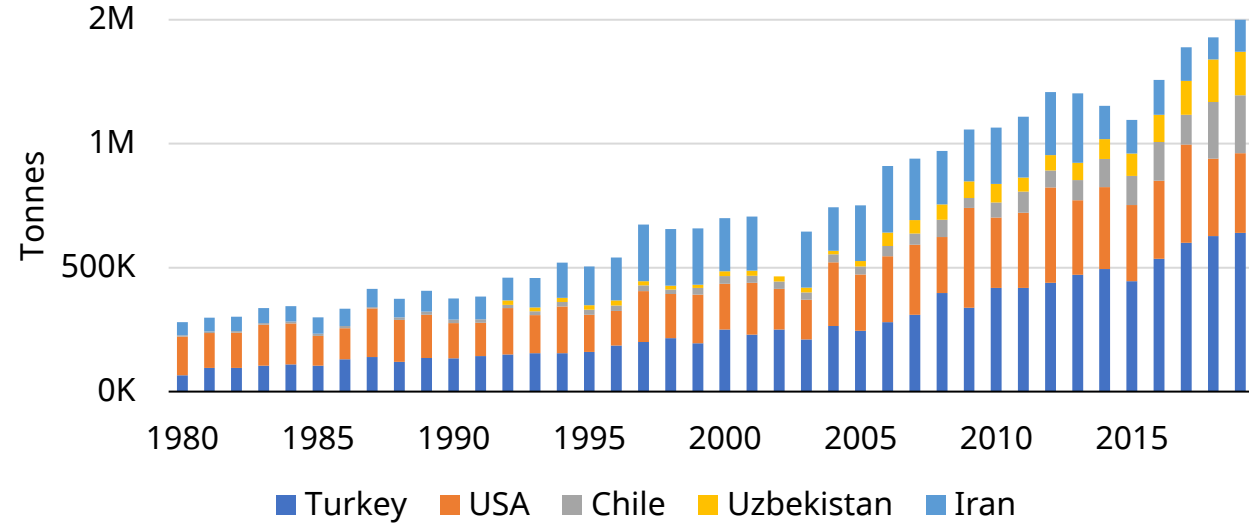
- Over the past 20 years, global bearing cherry acreage has increased by 34%. Global bearing apple acreage has decreased by 19%. This data does not represent plantings not yet in production.
- Top cherry producing countries in order of acreage:
 - Turkey
 - Chile
 - USA
 - Syria
 - Italy
- Top apple producing countries in order of acreage:
 - China
 - India
 - Russia
 - Turkey
 - Poland

5.1 Top Apple and Cherry Producing Countries

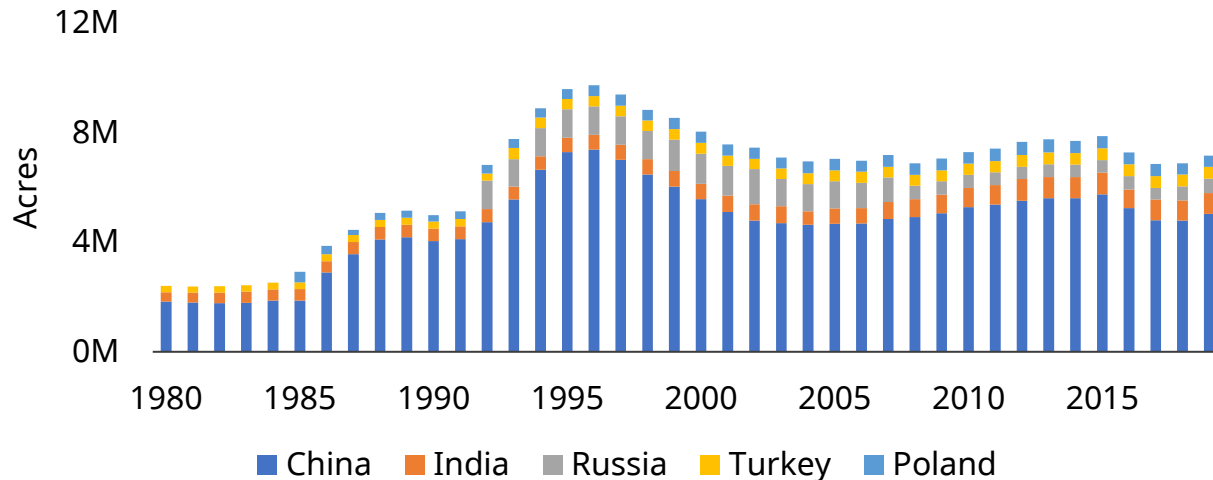
Bearing Cherry Acreage- Top 5 Countries



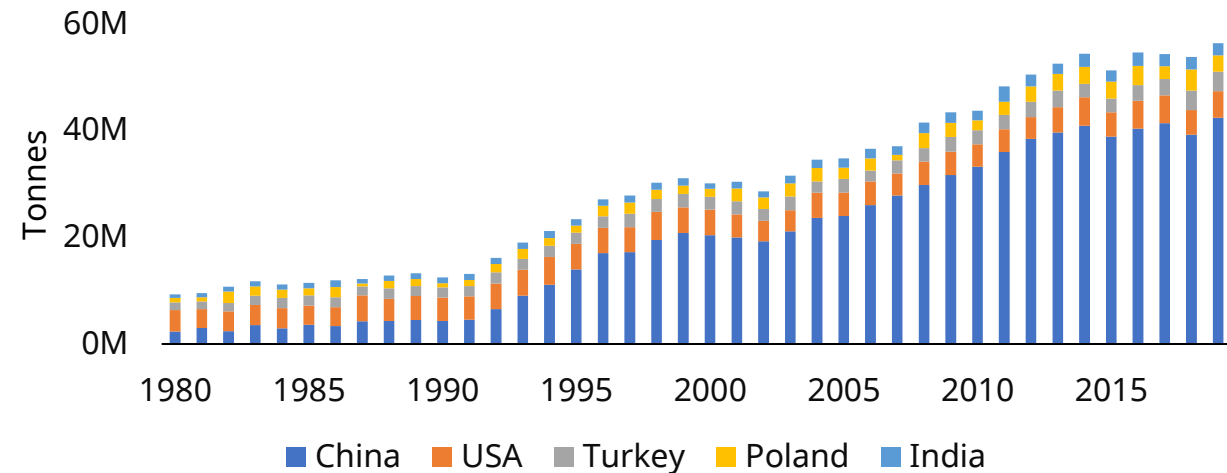
Cherry Production- Top 5 Countries



Bearing Apple Acreage- Top 5 Countries

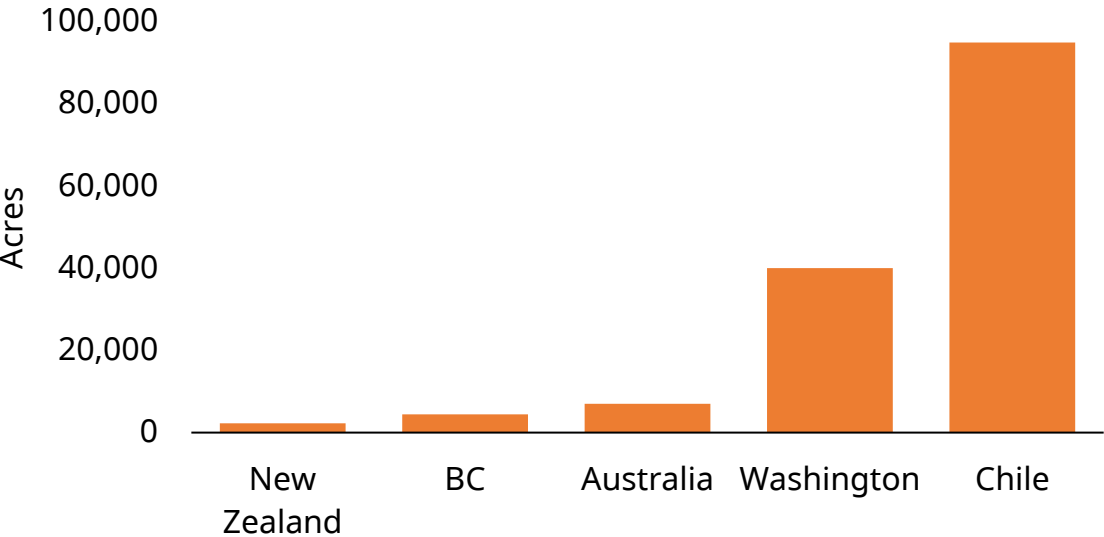


Apple Production- Top 5 Countries

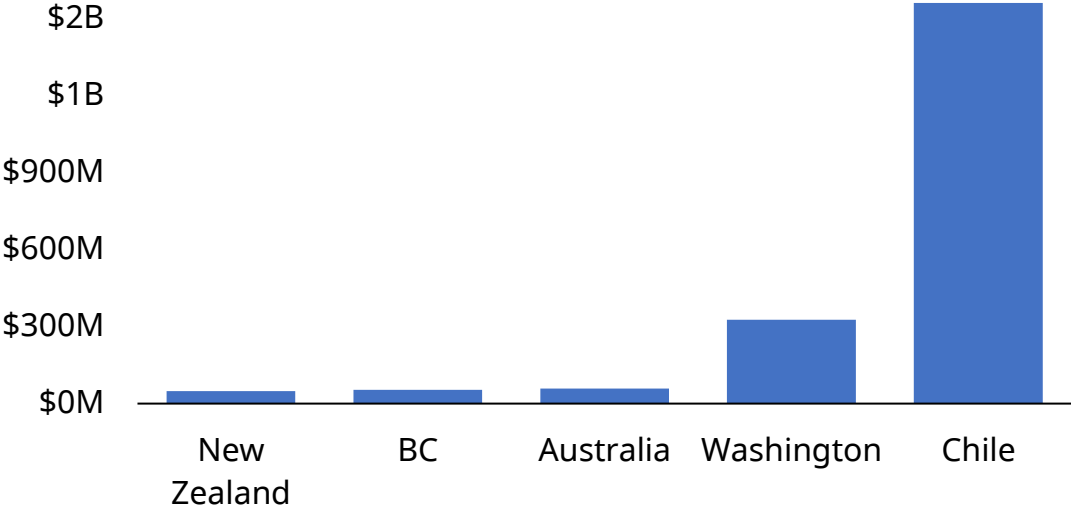


5.2 Cross-Jurisdictional Comparison

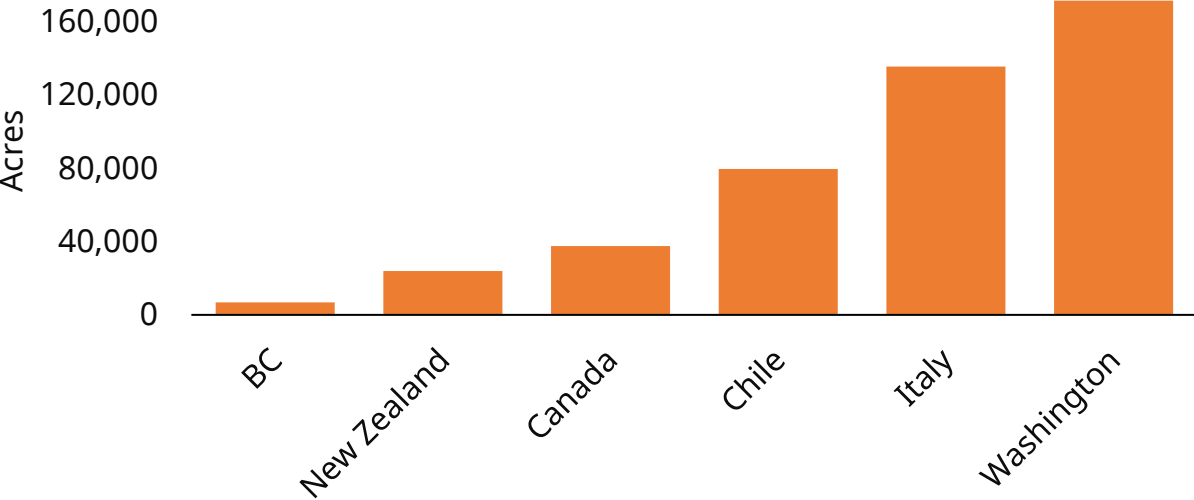
2019 Cherry Acreage



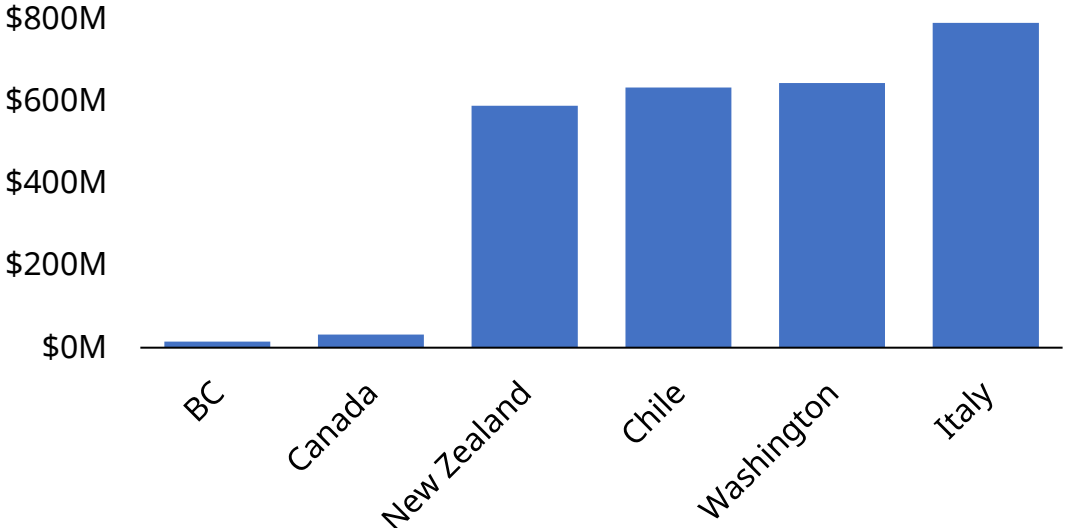
2019 Cherry Export Value (USD)



2019 Apple Acreage



2019 Apple Export Value (USD)



6. Conclusions

Overall trends in tree fruit acreage

- Since 2011, tree fruit acreage in BC has increased by 27%, from 10,116 acres to 12,840 acres. The majority of this growth (25%) occurred from 2011-2015.
- The 2% increase in tree fruit acreage since 2015 can be accounted for by cherry acreage, which increased by 28% over that time period, from 3,757 acres to 4,795 acres.
- The North Okanagan, Central Okanagan, and Creston have shown the greatest increase in cherry acreage since 2011.
- Acreage of all other commodities has decreased since 2015, except plum acreage, which did not change.
- Apple and cherry remain the dominant tree fruit commodities in B.C., and account for 90% of total acreage.
- Since 2015, apple acreage has steadily decreased, while cherry acreage increased.
- **Other contributing factors**
- Wine grape acreage has increased annually from 2011-2019. The South Okanagan represents the largest area planted to wine grapes, and accounts for 72% of total B.C. wine grape acreage.
- Tree fruit commodities cover more acreage than wine grapes in other regions.

Trends in the Cherry Industry

- From 2011 to 2019, cherry acreage increased by 75%, whereas wine grape acreage increased by 12%.
- Staccato is the top cherry variety grown in B.C., followed by Lapins. Staccato and Lapins make up 46% of cherry acreage in B.C.
- Staccato acreage has increased the most since 2011, followed by other later-season cherry varieties. Lapins acreage has not increased since 2016.
- Since 2011, cherry acreage has increased in every region, but increased the most in Creston, the North Okanagan and the Central Okanagan.

Trends in the Apple Industry

- The South Okanagan and Central Okanagan have shown the greatest decrease in apple acreage since 2011. The North Okanagan and Similkameen have increased in acreage since 2011.
- Ambrosia is the top apple variety grown in B.C., followed by Gala. Ambrosia and Gala make up 68% of apple acreage in B.C.
- Ambrosia, Honeycrisp and Pink Lady have increased in acreage since 2011. All other varieties have decreased in acreage.
- Replants to apple began decreasing in 2017, and continue to decrease.

Global Trends

- Global trends in cherries and apples mirror trends in B.C. Since 2015, global apple acreage has decreased by 9%. Global cherry acreage has increased by 8%.



7. Sources

BC Wine Grape Council. (2019). *2019 B.C. wine grape report*. <https://bcwgc.org/acreage-report>.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2021). Crop and livestock products. *FAOSTAT*. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC>.

Hort Innovation. (2019). *Australian horticulture statistics handbook 2018/19*. <https://www.cherrygrowers.org.au/assets/HA18002-australian-horticulture-statistics-handbook-fruit-2019-R.pdf>.

National Agricultural Statistic Service, USDA. (2021). *Press release*. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Fruit/2021/FRUIT.pdf.

New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd. (2019). *Fresh facts: New Zealand horticulture 2019*. <https://www.freshfacts.co.nz/>.

Statistics Canada. (2021). *Trade data online*. <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/tdo-dcd.nsf/eng/Home>.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. (2019). *Chile: Fresh deciduous fruit annual 2019*. <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/chile-fresh-deciduous-fruit-annual-4>.

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. (2019). *Chile: Stone fruit annual 2019*. <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/chile-stone-fruit-annual-4>.

Washington State Department of Agriculture. (2020). *Export statistics*. <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/business-and-marketing-support/international/statistics>.

World Apple and Pear Association (WAPA). (2021). *Southern hemisphere 2021 apple production and exports*. http://www.wapa-association.org/docs/2021/Aggregate_data.pdf.