

# 2021 B.C. Tree Fruit Acreage and Maturity Report

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Last Updated: August 2023



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# Executive Summary

This report looks at trends in the tree fruit acreage in five regions across B.C. (North, Central, and South Okanagan, Similkameen, and Creston Valley). The primary tree fruit grown in these regions are apple and cherries, with nearly 6,300 acres of apples and 5,100 of cherries. The vast majority (80.2%) of B.C.'s tree fruits are produced in the three Okanagan regions with 27.0% of tree fruit acreage in the Central Okanagan, 26.6% in the North Okanagan, and 26.6% in the South Okanagan.

Currently, there are approximately 6,300 acres of fresh eating apples produced in these five regions. Over the past ten years, apple acreage increased until 2017 when it peaked and started to decline. By 2021, apple acreage was roughly equivalent to what it was in 2011. Apple acreage is highest in the Central and North Okanagan regions. However, while apple acreage is increasing in the North Okanagan, it is decreasing in the Central Okanagan region.

Cherry acreage has been increasing rapidly and steadily in the province over the last ten years. In 2021, there were just over 5,100 acres of cherries. Like apples, the majority (88%) of the cherry acreage is in the three Okanagan regions, with 1,700 acres in the North, 1,350 in the Central, and 1,450 in the South Okanagan regions. Cherry acreage is showing consistent growth in the North and Central Okanagan. These regions have shown an average year-over-year (YOY) growth of 11% and 14%, respectively. The South Okanagan region has shown a much smaller, but still increasing growth rate, with an average YOY growth of 3.5%.

This report also briefly examines the acreage of wine grapes in the province. Of the regions showing significant decreases in apple acreage, only the South Okanagan showed any significant increases in wine grape acreage during this period. Interestingly, in the South Okanagan, decreases in the apple acreage started before any increases in wine grape growing. This suggests that the decrease in apple acreage may be independent of the increase in wine grape acreage in that region.

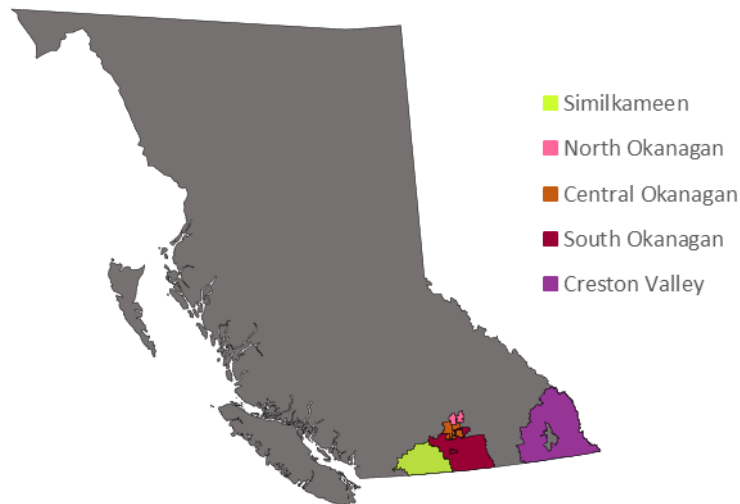
# 1. Introduction

This report is intended to describe 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 provided by the Business Risk Management Division (BRM) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The data range from 2011 to 2021.

## 1.1 Focus Regions

Tree fruit production occurs in many regions across the province; this report focuses on the primary tree fruit production areas. This includes the North, Central, and South Okanagan, Similkameen, and Creston Valley. Figure 1.1.1 (below) outlines the regions of interest for this report.



*Figure 1.1.1. Regions of Primary Tree Fruit Production Across British Columbia*

Within these primary tree fruit production regions, there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of acreage. For example, the Okanagan regions account for 80.2% of total tree fruit acreage. Figure 1.1.2 provides a heat map of tree fruit acreage across the province. The large production area in the Okanagan allows further breakdown into three distinct regions: North, Central, and South. Figure 1.1.3 (below; left) and Table 1.1.1 (below; right) provide further detail on the Okanagan regions.

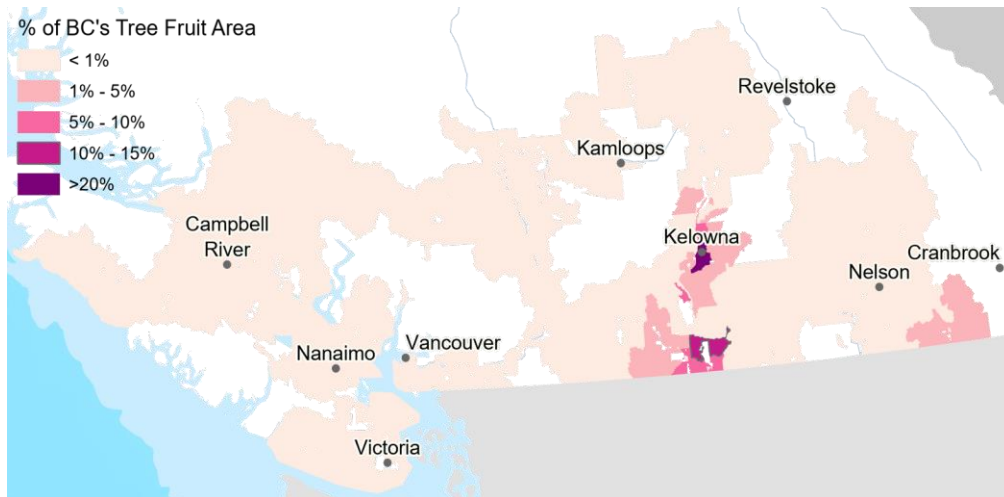


Figure 1.1.2. Heat map of B.C.'s tree fruit production Area (2021)



Figure 1.1.3. Map of Okanagan Region

Table 1.1.1. Boundaries of the North, Central, and South Okanagan Regions

Region	Northern Most Community	Southern Most Community
North Okanagan	Armstrong	Lake Country
Central Okanagan	Kelowna	Peachland
South Okanagan	Summerland	Osoyoos

## 1.2 Maturity Equivalence

It takes several years for fruit trees to start producing fruit, and even more time to reach full maturity and production. For example, apple trees take, on average, eight seasons to fully mature. If trees are planted in 2020, they will not start to produce apples until 2022 and even then, they will only produce approximately 40% of what they will produce by 2027. Table 1.2.1 (below; left) displays the average age to full maturity for B.C.'s top 6 tree fruits.

Before a crop reaches full maturity, the fruit output is measured as a percentage of the total potential yield; this measure is called the *maturity equivalence*. These are standardized across different varieties. Table 1.2.2 (below; right) is an example of how the

average maturity equivalence of apples increases over time. In this example, apples will yield approximately 60% of their full potential in their 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Table 1.2.1. Average Years to Full Maturity for Apples, Cherries, Peaches, Pears, Plums, and Apricots

Fruit	Years to Full Maturity <sup>1</sup>
Apples	8
Cherries	8
Peaches	6
Pears	9
Plum	6
Apricot	9

Table 1.2.2. Maturity Equivalence of Apples over Time

Plant Age (years)	Maturity Equivalence <sup>1</sup>
1 (year planted)	0
2	0
3	40%
4	60%
5	77%
6	87%
7	95%
8	100%

### 1.3 Maturity Equivalence Acre

Because young crops are less productive than fully mature crops, simply measuring the total acreage of crops without taking maturity equivalence into account will not give an accurate representation on the state of the tree fruit industry in B.C. Adjusting for young plants with a maturity equivalence of less than 100% is relatively simple. Below is the calculation for *maturity equivalence acre*.

$$\text{Maturity Equivalence Acre} = \text{Total Acres} * \text{Maturity Equivalence (\%)}$$

The maturity equivalence acre yields an estimate of the production capacity of young plants compared to a fully mature plant. For example, 10 acres of 4-year-old apple trees produce about 60% of what they will once they are fully mature. The maturity equivalence (ME) calculation is as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> There are several factors that influence maturity rates, including spacing, weather, etc. This table uses approximate averages.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Maturity Equivalence Acres (ME Acres)} &= 10 \text{ acres} * 60\% \\
 &= 10(0.6) \\
 &= 6 \text{ acres}
 \end{aligned}$$

In this example, 10 acres of 4-year-old apples is functionally equivalent to (i.e., produces the same volume of fruit as) 6 acres of fully mature apples.

Another important measure is the *acreage differential*. The acreage differential is the difference between the real, or total, acres and the ME acres. In the above apple tree example, the acreage differential would be  $10 - 6 = 4$  acres. Meaning that, functionally, there are 4 less acres producing than a measure of total acres would capture. Figure 1.3.1 illustrates this visually. The *acreage differential percentage* is simply the proportion of these under-mature acres to total planted acres. Based on the above example the acreage differential percentage is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Acreage Differential (\%)} &= \frac{[\text{Total Acres} - \text{ME Acres}]}{\text{Total Acres}} \\
 &= \frac{[10 - 6]}{10} \\
 &= 40\%
 \end{aligned}$$



Figure 1.3.1. A visual illustration of maturity equivalence

In other words, 40% of the total acreage of apples is not yet in full production. Acreage differential can also be used to estimate the relative age of orchards in a region, in that, regions with a high acreage differential (AD) percentage would have a larger proportion of young plants. In other words, the larger the AD percentage, the more recently planted the crops are.

## 2. Tree Fruit Acreage Overview

### 2.1 Total Acreage by Fruit Species

Apples and cherries remain B.C.'s largest tree fruit industries. Together, they account for almost 90% of the total (i.e., not adjusted for maturity) tree fruit production area.

There are 12,741 acres in tree fruit production across the five focus areas. 50% of this acreage is dedicated to apples, 40% to cherries, 6% to peaches, and less than 2% each to pears, plums, and apricots. Figure 2.1.1 (below; left) represents this visually. Table 2.1.1 (below; right) outlines the total area and percentage of total area for each fruit type. Because pears, plums, and apricots account for such a small amount of tree fruit acreage, this report will focus only on apples and cherries.

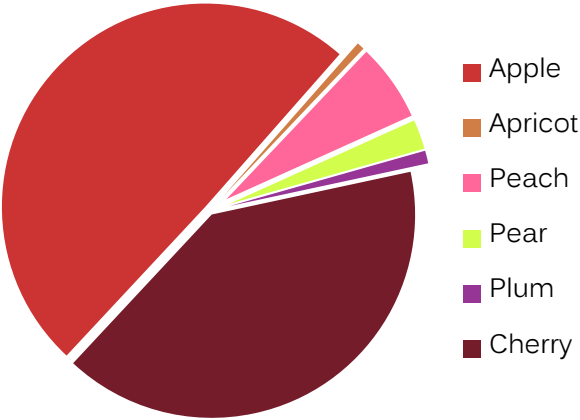


Figure 2.1.1 Total Tree Fruit Acreage by Fruit Type

Table 2.1.1 Total Area (Acres) And Proportion of Total Area Dedicated to B.C.'S Tree Fruits

Fruit	Total Acres	Proportion of Total Acres
Apple	6,312	50%
Cherry	5,137	40%
Peach	785	6%
Pear	300	2%
Plum	130	1%
Apricot	77	1%



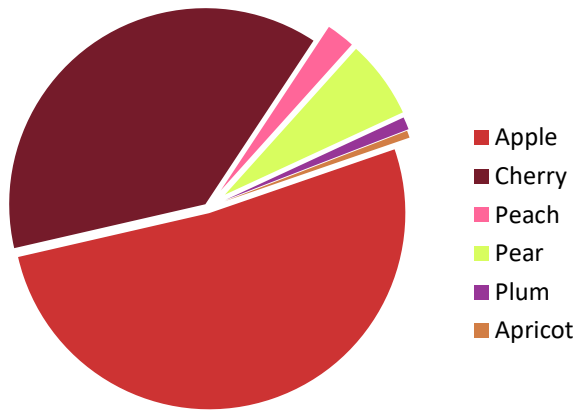


Figure 2.1.2 Pie Chart of The Proportion of Maturity Equivalence Acres for B.C.'S Tree Fruits

Table 2.1.2 Total Maturity Equivalence Acres for B.C.'S Tree Fruits

Fruit	Maturity Equivalent Acres	Proportion of Total ME Tree Fruit Area	Average Maturity Equivalence
Apple	5,966	52%	95%
Cherry	4,373	38%	85%
Peach	744	6%	95%
Pear	272	2%	91%
Plum	119	1%	92%
Apricot	68	0%	89%

Across all fruits, there is a ME of 11,542 acres. This is equivalent to 88% of the total 12,741 acres producing at full capacity. Figure 2.1.2 (above; left) examines the acreage differential across the three different fruit species. Table 2.1.2 (above; right) displays the ME acres for each fruit type, the proportion of ME that each crop type accounts for, and the average ME of that fruit. Looking at cherries, specifically, they have the lowest maturity equivalence percentage, meaning that, across the province, cherry acreage is the least mature. This indicates there is a higher proportion of new planting or re-planting.

## 2.2 Changes in Acreage Over Time

The acreage dedicated to tree fruit production has grown from 10,116 acres to 12,741 acres (nearly 21%) since 2011. The absolute number of acres dedicated to apples, apricots, peaches, pears, and plums has remained relatively stable from 2011 to 2021. Similarly, apples, apricots, peaches, and pears are only showing acreage changes of +38 (0.6%), -3 (-3.9%), -9 (-1.1%), -6 (-2.0%), respectively. These changes are small and suggest that there is no real growth or decline in *provincial* production area.

On the other hand, sweet cherries have grown in acreage by more than 100% from 2011 to 2021. In 2011, British Columbia had 2,548 acres of cherry production and by 2021, B.C. had 5,137 acres of cherries.

Interestingly, while the total number of acres for apple production was the same in 2021 as it was in 2011, when examining the trends in acreage change year to year, we see an “n”-shaped curve. Acreage increased from 2011, peaking in 2015 before starting to decrease again. In other words, the long-term 10-year trend of apple acreage has shown no overall change, however, in the shorter time scale (i.e., 5 years), apple acreage is

decreasing across the province. Figure 2.2.1 (below) shows this graphically. Note that the figure uses different vertical axes to illustrate and compare the trends in apple and cherry acreage.

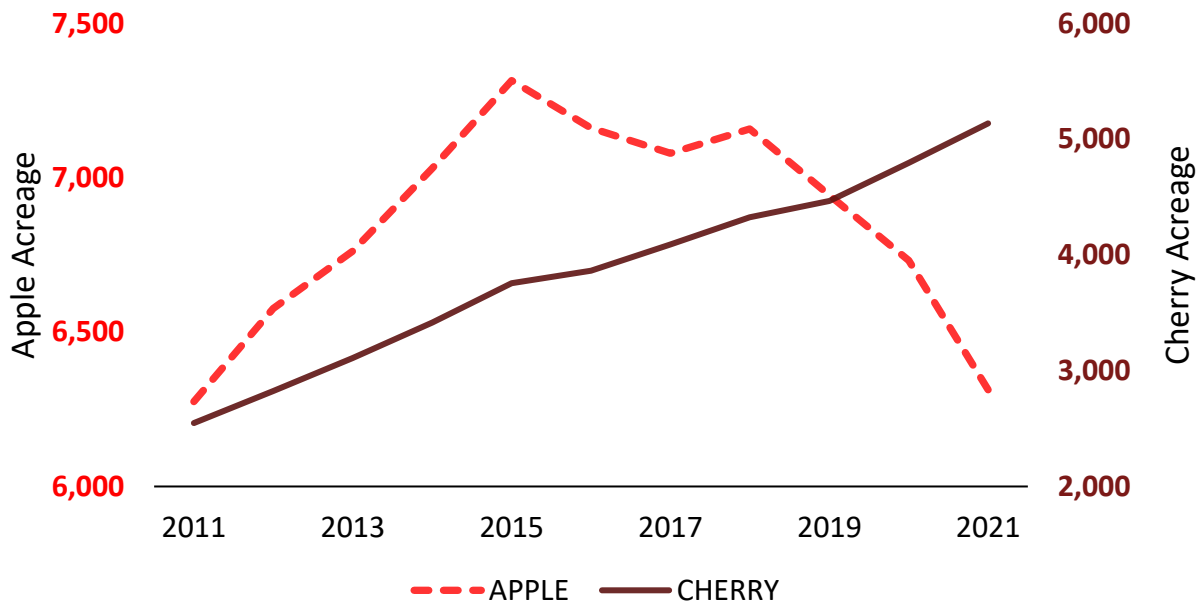


Figure 2.2.1 Total Apple and Cherry Acreage in B.C. from 2011 to 2021

### 2.3 Tree Fruit Acreage by Region

The Okanagan region has the greatest area dedicated to tree fruit production, representing 80.2% of the tree fruit production acreage included in this report. The Similkameen region accounts for 16.7% of the total production area and the Creston region represents the remaining 3.0%.

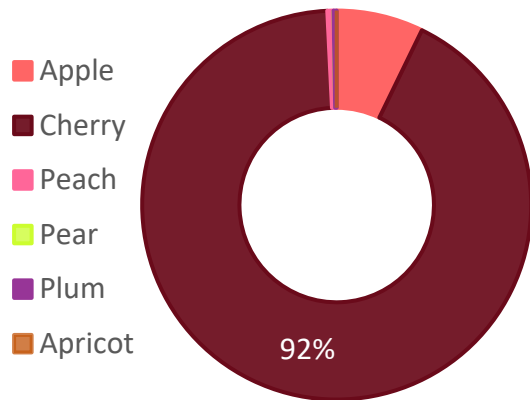
Table 2.3.1 (below) shows a break down of total acreage in each region by fruit type. Apples and cherries account for 90% of the total acreage, and as such, are the only fruit types examined in detail in this section of the report.

Table 2.3.1 Acres of Fruit Tree Production by Fruit Species by Region

	Central Okanagan	South Okanagan	North Okanagan	Similkameen	Creston
Apple	1,873	1,277	1,641	1,485	28
Cherry	1,370	1,444	1,716	249	357
Peach	14	489	19	262	2
Pear	173	37	13	77	-
Plum	4	93	1	31	1
Apricot	0	52	0	24	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>388</b>
<b>Perc.</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

While apples represent the greatest amount of B.C.'s tree fruit acreage, it is not a prevalent crop in the Creston valley. Creston has a much larger area in cherry production, which accounts for 92% of Creston's tree fruit acreage. Conversely, cherries do not represent a large production area in the Similkameen region, where 70% of tree fruit acreage is dedicated to apple production.

### Creston Valley



Creston valley is the smallest tree fruit production area in this report, with approximately 388 acres. (Figure 2.3.1; left).

Figure 2.3.1 Proportion of Tree Fruit Species by Acreage in the Creston Valley

## Cherry Production in Creston

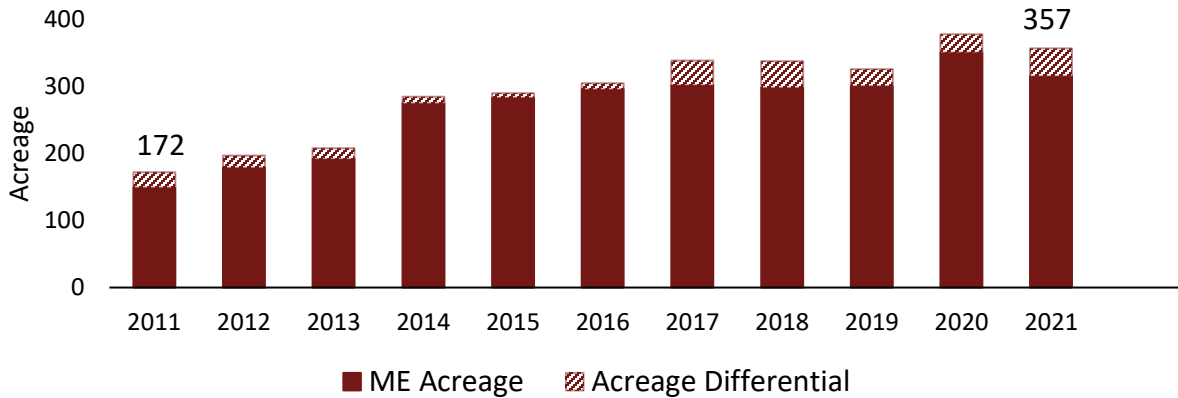
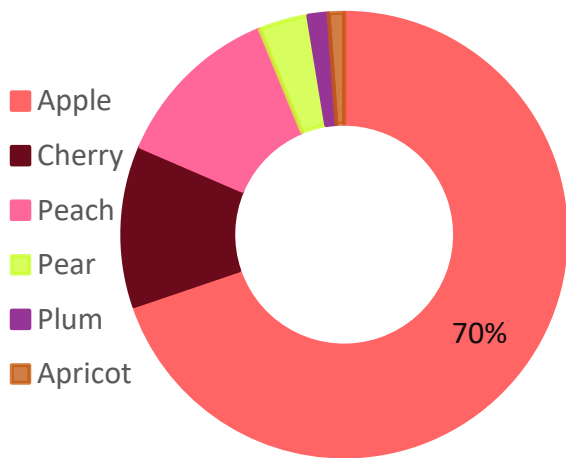


Figure 2.3.2. Cherry Production in Creston Over Time

Creston’s cherry industry has shown steady growth over the last 10 years. See Figure 2.3.2 (above) for ME acreage and acreage differential of cherry production over time in Creston Valley (total acres are read as the whole bar; see examples for 2011 and 2021). Total cherry acreage shows an average year over year growth 8.0%. The acreage differential shows that cherry orchards were relatively mature in 2011, with an acreage differential of 13%. In other words, all cherry orchards in the region were only producing 87% of what they would when the trees reached full maturity. The acreage differential increased by 13% between 2017 and 2021, however, total acreage did not significantly increase (+4%) in that period. This suggests that older plantings are being updated with newer plantings, which have not yet reached full production.

## Similkameen



The Similkameen region contains the widest range of fruit types. Like the Okanagan regions, apples are the primary crop, making up 70% of the total area in tree fruit production. See Figure 2.3.3 (left) for breakdown by tree fruit variety.

Figure 2.3.3. Proportion of Tree Fruit Species by Acreage in the Similkameen Region

## Apple Production in Similkameen

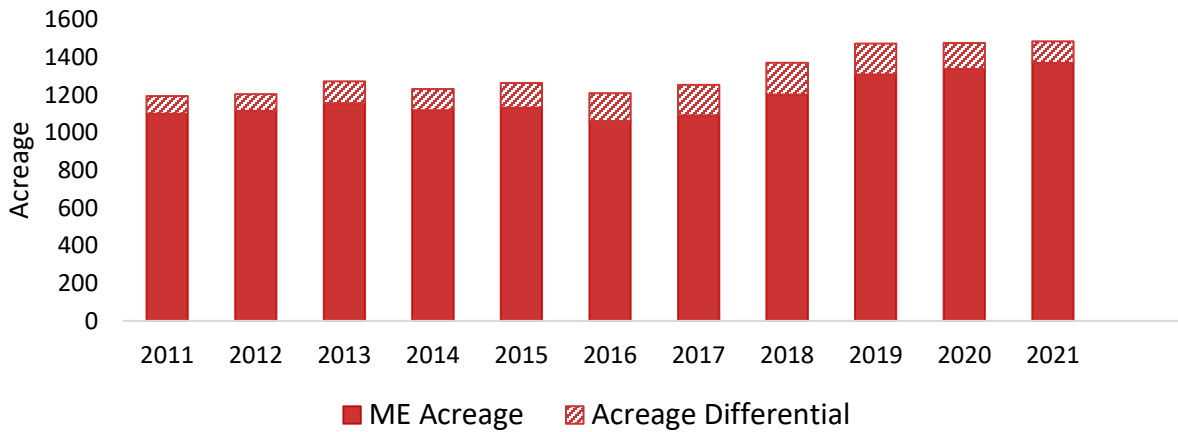
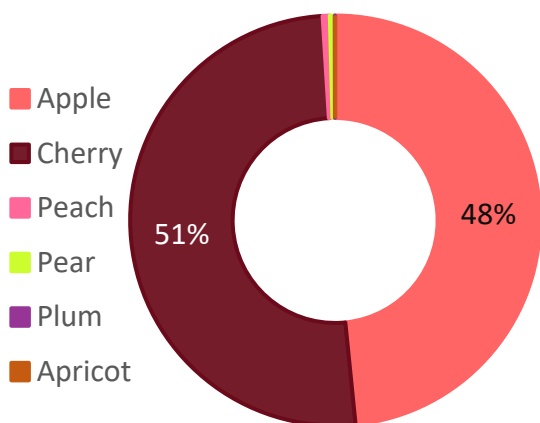


Figure 2.3.4 Apple Production in Similkameen

Apple acreage has been relatively stable from 2011 to 2021 in the Similkameen, with an average annual acreage increase of 2.3% (Figure 2.3.4; above). The acreage differential is relatively high in this region (compared to the other apple growing regions discussed in this report). This suggests that apple acreage is being renewed at greater frequency than apple acreage in other regions. Orchard renewal is done to replace old, and often outdated, planting systems with new varieties, rootstocks and/or planting systems.

## North Okanagan



The North Okanagan has an almost even split between cherries and apples. There are 1,716 acres of cherries, representing 51% of the total tree fruit acreage and 1,641 acres of apples, or 48% of total area. See Figure 2.3.5 (left) for breakdown.

Figure 2.3.5. Proportion of Tree Fruit Species by Acreage in the North Okanagan Region

## Apple Production in North Okanagan

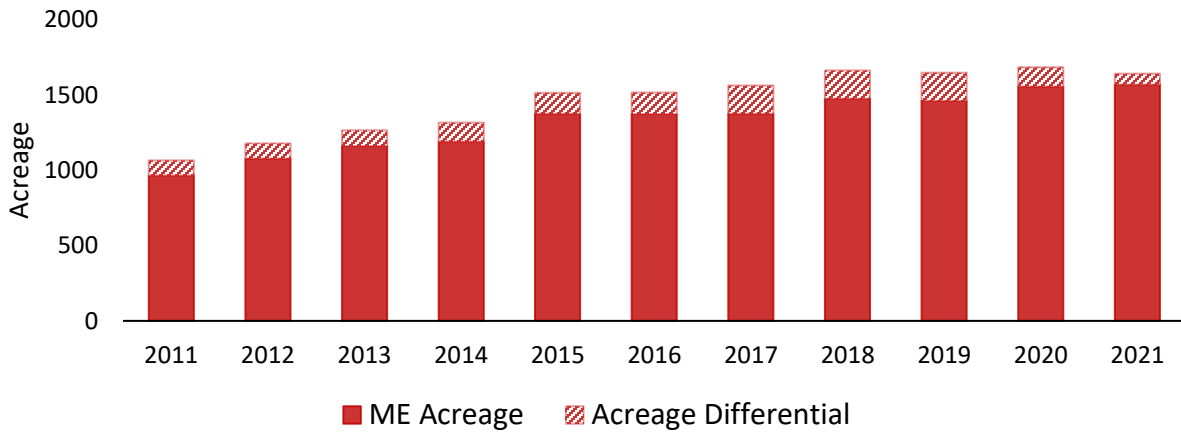


Figure 2.3.6. Apple Production in North Okanagan

Looking at apples in the North Okanagan region, there was consistent growth in acreage until 2018 (Figure 2.3.6; above). From 2018 to 2021, the growth rate slowed to a barely perceptible increase. It is likely that the variance from year to year is due to measurement error. The average year-over-year growth for apple acreage during this 10-year period was 4.5%.

The acreage differential started declining after 2019. Typically, a decline in acreage differential indicates that young orchards are beginning to mature, and there are fewer new plantings.

## Cherry Production in North Okanagan

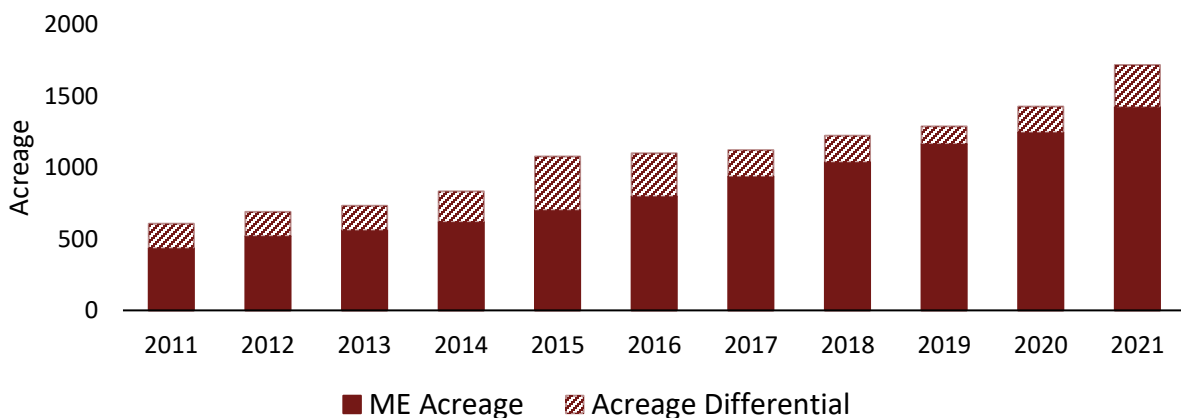
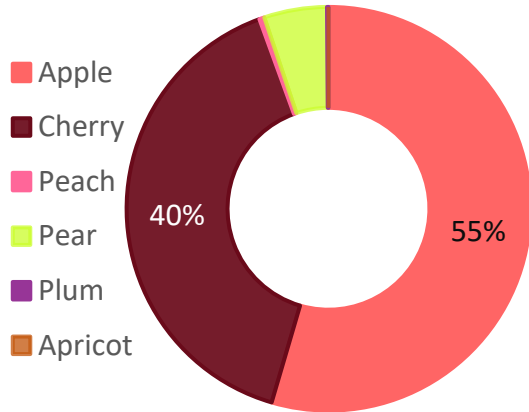


Figure 2.3.7. Cherry Production in North Okanagan

Cherry production in the North Okanagan has increased considerably from 2011. In 2021, the North Okanagan had just over 1,700 acres of cherries. Since 2011, the average

year-over-year growth rate has been 11.3%. The largest planting years were 2015 and 2021, which saw acreage grow by 29.5% and 20.5%, respectively. (Figure 2.3.7; above).

### Central Okanagan



In the Central Okanagan, much like the rest of B.C., the primary tree fruits are apples and cherries. There are 1,873 (55%) acres of apples and 1,370 (40%) acres of cherries. (Figure 2.3.8; left).

Figure 2.3.8. Proportion of Tree Fruit Species by Acreage in the Central Okanagan Region

### Apple Production in Central Okanagan

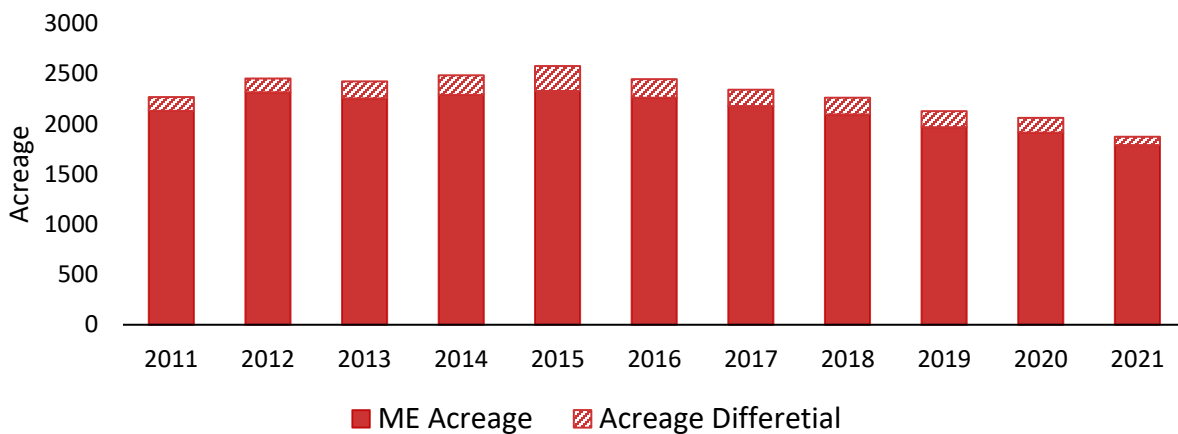


Figure 2.3.9. Apple Production in Central Okanagan

The apple acreage in the Central Okanagan is declining. The average year-over-year change from 2011 is -2%. There are 394 fewer acres of apples in 2021 than there were in 2011. The decline in apple acreage started in 2015. From 2017 to 2021, the region lost a total of 486 acres. See Figure 2.3.9 (above).

## Cherry Production in Central Okanagan

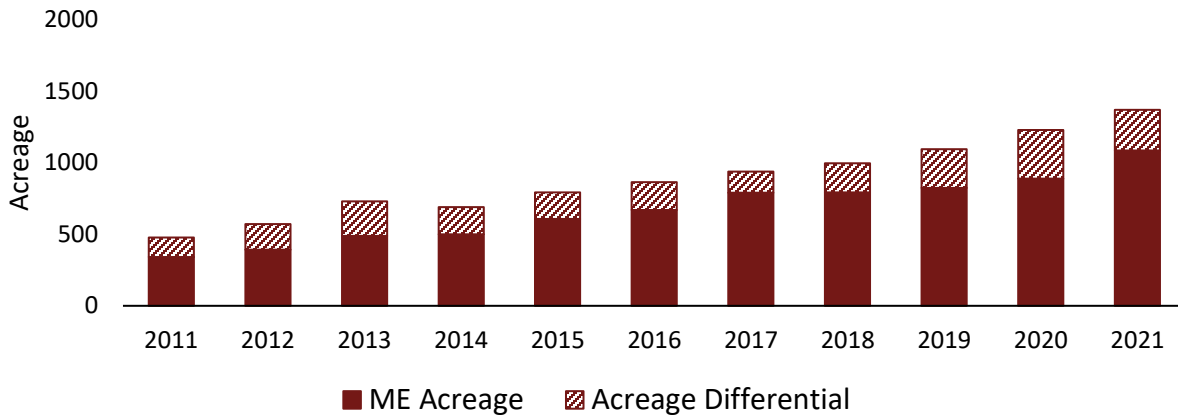
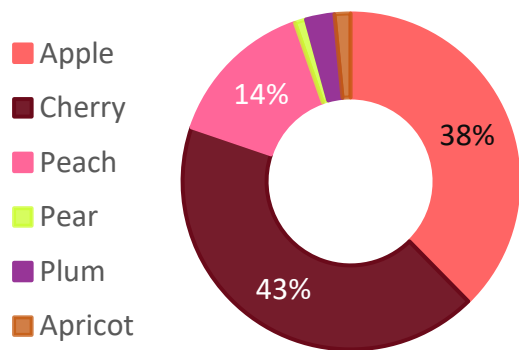


Figure 2.3.10. Cherry Production in Central Okanagan

Unlike apples, cherry acreage is showing steady growth in the Central Okanagan. The average annual growth in cherry acreage from 2011 to 2021 was 11.4% (Figure 2.3.10; above). The overall change between 2017 and 2021 was 46%.

## South Okanagan



The South Okanagan follows the general pattern for tree fruits of primarily growing apples and cherries. There are 1,277 (38%) acres of apples and 1,444 acres of cherries (43%). The South Okanagan is also the largest producer of peaches in the province with 489 acres (14%). (Figure 2.3.11; left)

Figure 2.3.11. Proportion of Tree Fruit Species by Acreage in the South Okanagan Region



## Apple Production in South Okanagan

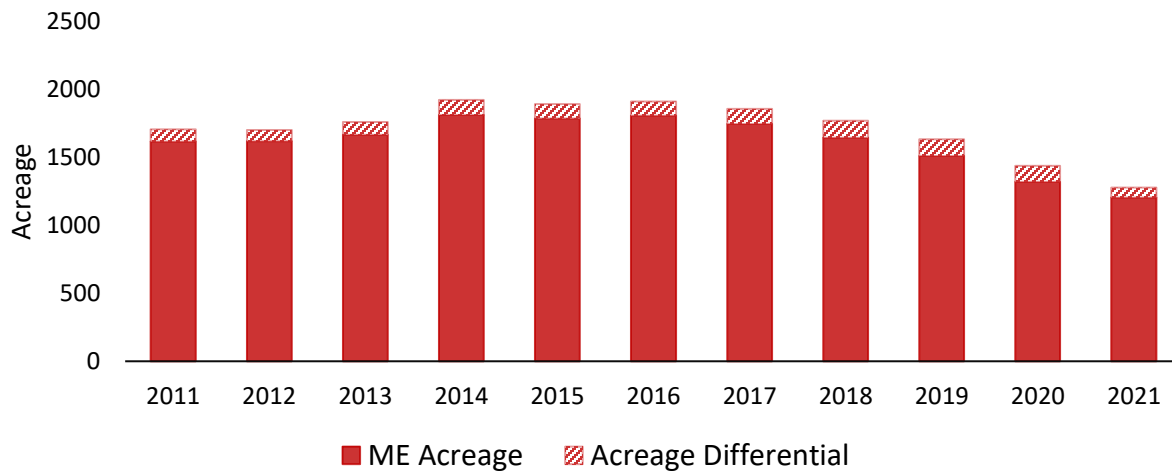


Figure 2.3.12. Apple Production in South Okanagan

Apple acreage in the South Okanagan is declining (Figure 2.3.12). The average year-over-year change from 2011 is -2.7%. There are 428 fewer acres of apples in 2021 than there were in 2011. Acreage started declining in 2017. From 2017 to 2021, the region lost a total of 580 acres.

## Cherry Production in South Okanagan

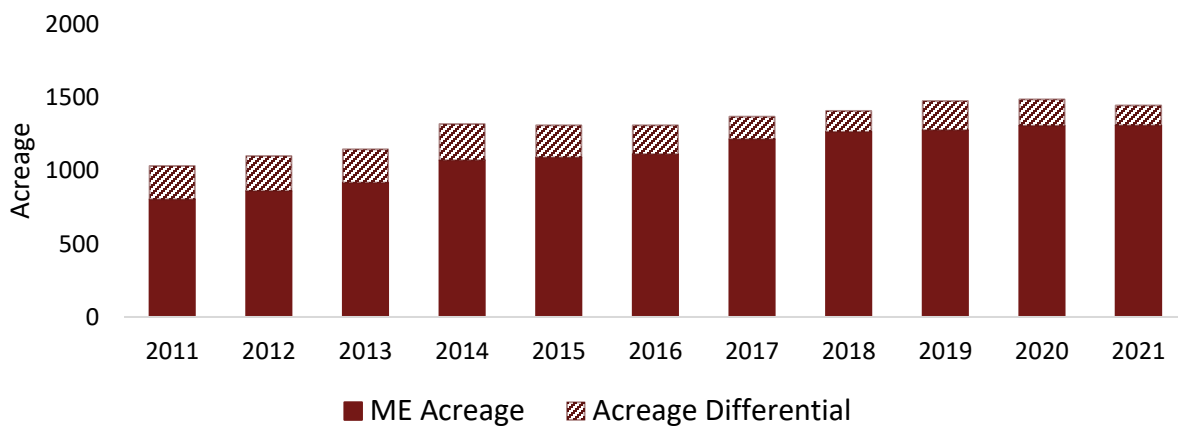


Figure 2.3.13. Cherry Production in South Okanagan

Cherry acreage in the South Okanagan has increased from 2011 to 2021 (Figure 2.3.13; above). Interestingly, there are two different growth rates. From 2011 to 2021, cherry acreage increased by 412 acres. The average year-over-year growth was 3.5%. However, from 2017 to 2021, cherry acreage only increased by 76 acres. The average YoY

growth from 2017 to 2021 was 2.0%. This means that the growth rate was slower from 2017-2021 than it was from 2011-2016.

From 2017 to 2021, the apple industry lost 394 acres while the cherry industry only gained 76 acres. This suggests that while apples are declining, they are not being replaced by cherries. Trends in wine grape acreage are explored in Section 5.

### 3. Apple Industry

#### 3.1 Apple Industry Overview

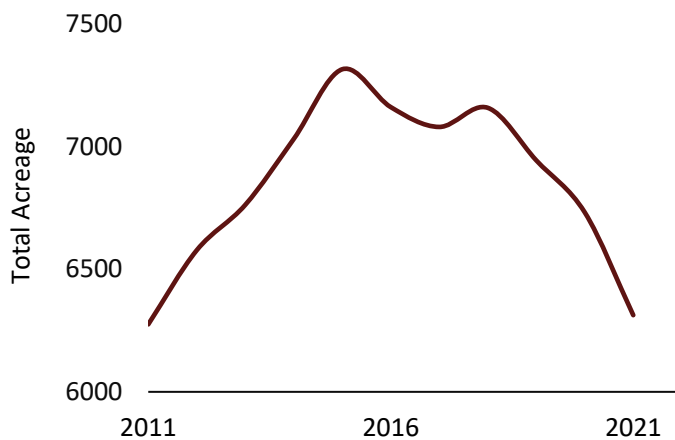


Figure 3.1.1 (left) shows the total acreage of apples across the province’s five main fruit growing regions from 2011 to 2021.

The shape of this graph is a distinct “n”. Until 2015, there was a consistent increase at a stable rate, and from 2016 on, a steady decline.

Figure 3.1.1. Apple Acreage in B.C. 2010 to 2021

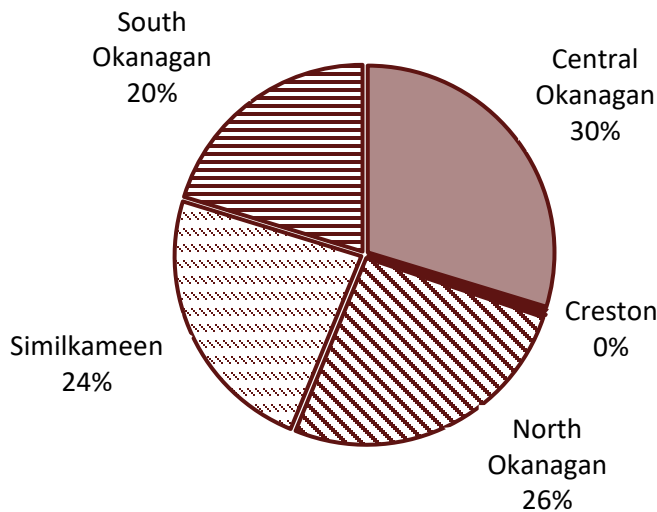


Figure 3.1.2. Apple Acreage by Region (2021)

Table 3.1.1. Apple Acreage by Region

Region	2021 Total Apple Acreage	Average Maturity
Central Okanagan	1,873	96%
North Okanagan	1,641	96%
Similkameen	1,485	92%
South Okanagan	1,277	94%
Creston	28	77%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>94%</b>

Figure 3.1.2 (above; left) and Table 3.1.1 (above; right) show a general overview of the apple industry by region. Nearly all apples are grown in the Okanagan and Similkameen regions. All four apple regions have a high maturity rate, indicating that there is a relatively small number of new apple trees being planted.

Figure 3.1.3 (below) shows the proportion of regional apple acreage to total apple acreage by region over time.

Apple acreage is increasing in the Similkameen and North Okanagan regions and decreasing in the Central and South Okanagan regions (see section 2.3).

These data suggest a shifting trend in regional B.C. apple acreage. The North Okanagan and Similkameen regions are trending towards becoming the primary apple producing regions, while the South and Central Okanagan regions decline in apple acreage.

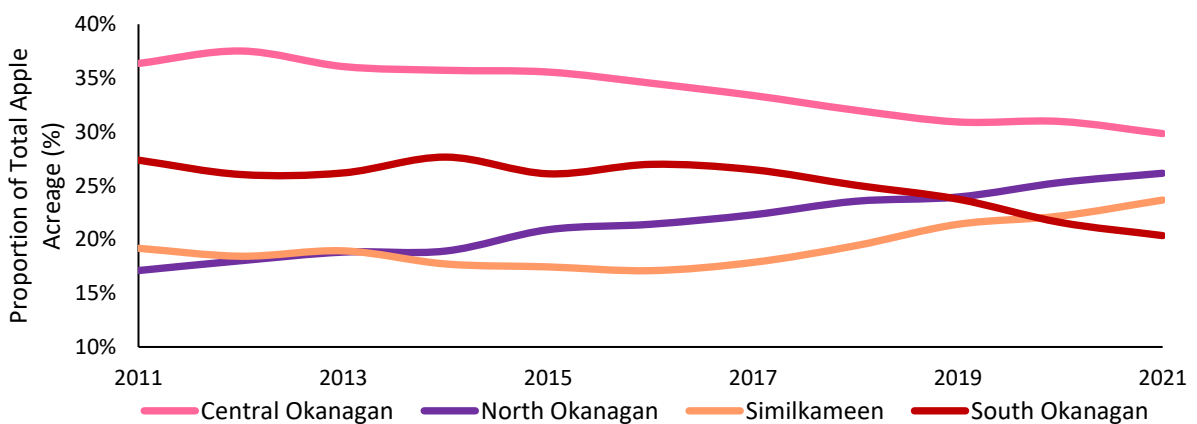


Figure 3.1.3. Proportion of Regional Apple Acreage Over Time

### 3.2 Apple Varieties

Table 3.2.1 (right) shows the most popular apple varieties across the five focus regions. Ambrosia and Gala apples are by far the most popular varieties in the province. Combined, Ambrosia and Gala apples account for around 69% of all apple acreage in B.C.

Table 3.2.1 Apple Varieties by Acreage across B.C.

Variety	Acres	% of Total
Ambrosia	2,332	36.9%
Gala	2,021	32.0%
Honeycrisp	527	8.3%
McIntosh	362	5.7%
Spartan	293	4.6%
Pink Lady	185	2.9%
Granny Smith	123	2.0%
Red Delicious	116	1.8%

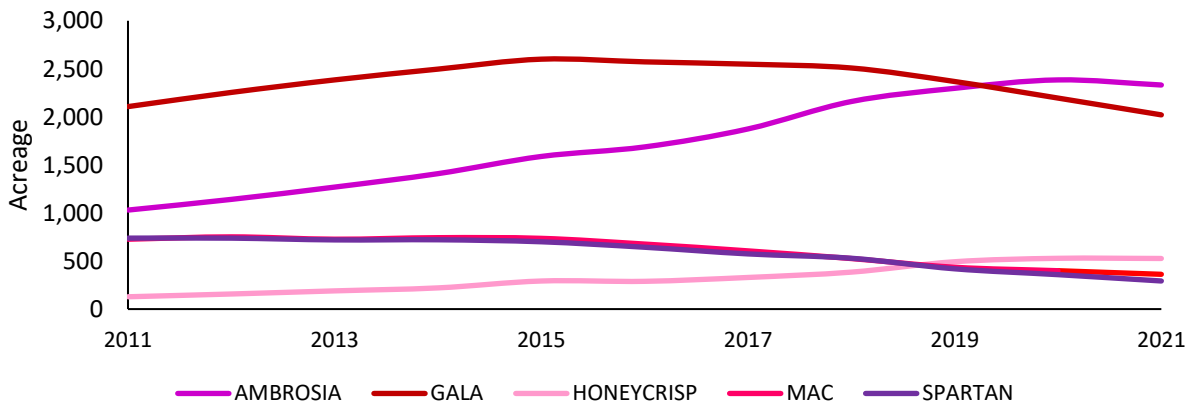


Figure 3.2.1. Trends in Apple Varieties in B.C. from 2011 to 2021

Figure 3.2.1 (above) shows the trends in apple varieties in B.C. from 2011 to 2021. Gala, McIntosh, and Spartan acreage declined, while Ambrosia and Honeycrisp varieties increased. In 2011, Gala apples represented the largest acreage in the province. After 2019, Ambrosia overtook Gala. Similarly, Honeycrisp overtook Spartan and McIntosh acreage around the same time.

### 3.3 Apple Production Yield

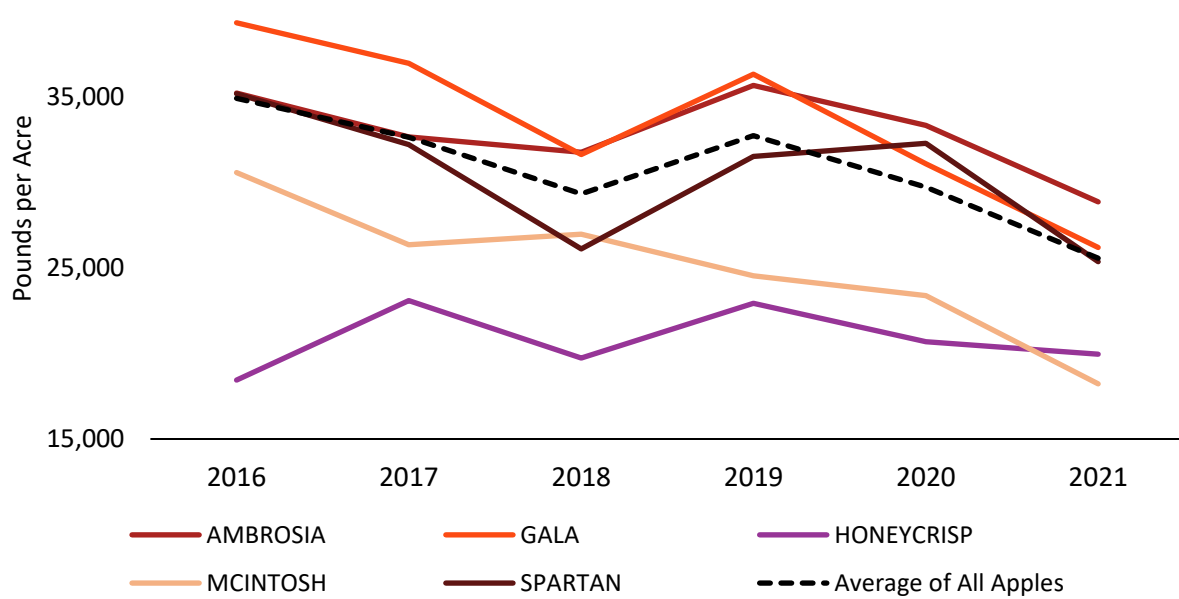


Figure 3.3.1. Average Yield of the Five Most Common Apple Varieties

Prior to 2019, average yield among the top five varieties was relatively stable (Figure 3.3.1; above). However, from 2019 to 2021, average apple yield decreased from 32.7 thousand lbs/Acre to 25.6 thousand lbs/acre, representing a 21.7% decrease. The decline in yield was due to several weather events (e.g., heat dome, hail, drought, etc.) that impacted tree growth and fruit quality.

## 4. Cherries

### 4.1 Cherry Industry Overview

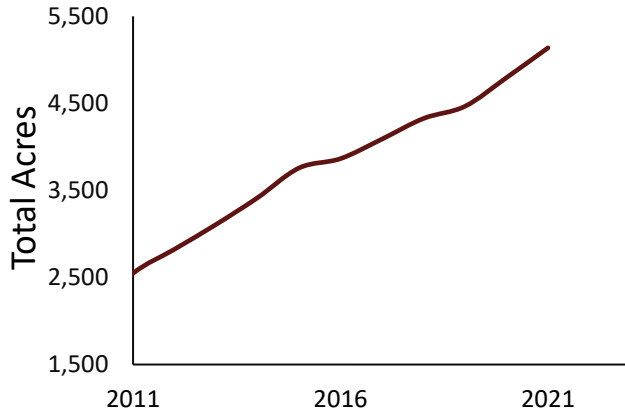


Figure 4.1.1 Cherry Acreage in B.C., 2011 to 2021

In 2010, the province's main tree fruit producing regions had 2,000 acres of cherries (Figure 4.1.1; left). By 2021, acreage had grown to over 5,100 acres, representing a 155% increase in total cherry acreage.

Nearly all cherries are grown in the Okanagan regions and the Creston Valley (Figure 4.1.2; below; left and Table 4.1.1; below; right). The Central Okanagan has the lowest acreage differential percentage, meaning it has the fewest new plantings compared to the other regions.

Figure 4.1.2. Cherry Acreage by Region

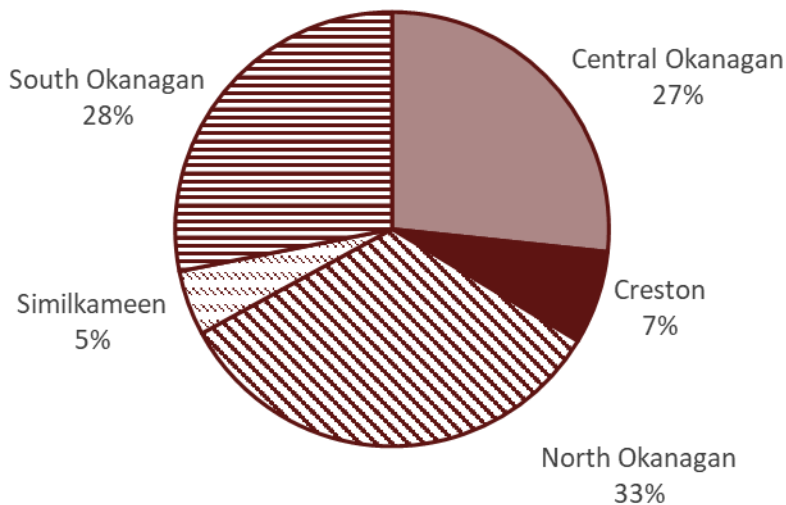


Table 4.1.1 Cherry Acreage by Region

Region	Total Acres	Average Maturity
North Okanagan	1,716	83%
South Okanagan	1,444	91%
Central Okanagan	1,370	79%
Creston	357	88%
Similkameen	249	98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,136</b>	<b>95%</b>

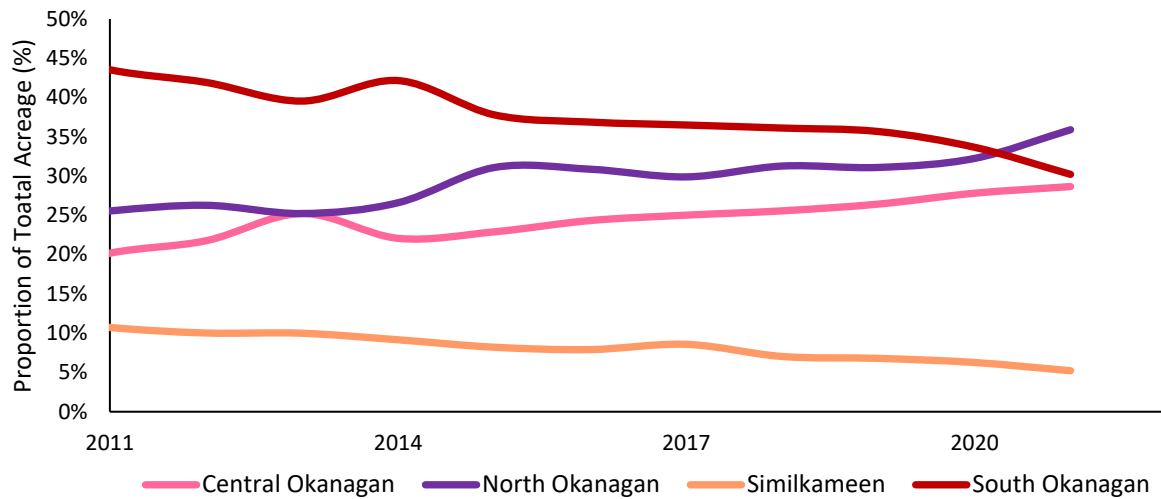


Figure 4.1.3 Proportion of Total Cherry Acreage by Region over Time

While all four key cherry growing regions are expanding in acreage, each region grows at a different rate, causing changes to the proportion of total cherry acreage attributed to each region. The North Okanagan region is expanding the fastest and the South Okanagan region, which used to produce half of the province’s cherries, is growing at a slower rate than the North Okanagan. The different growth rates of the two regions cause the North Okanagan to produce a higher proportion of cherries, while the South Okanagan region is seeing a decrease in the proportion of provincial cherry acreage it represents. .

## 4.2 Cherry Varieties

Table 4.2.1 Acreage of Most Popular Cherry Varieties in B.C.

Variety	Acres	% of Total Acreage
Staccato	1,353	26.3%
Lapins	913	17.8%
Sentennial	680	13.2%
Sweetheart	659	12.8%
Skeena	363	7.1%
Santina	158	3.1%
Cristalina	142	2.8%
Regina	109	2.1%

Table 4.2.1 (left) shows the cherry varieties that represent the greatest acreage in B.C.

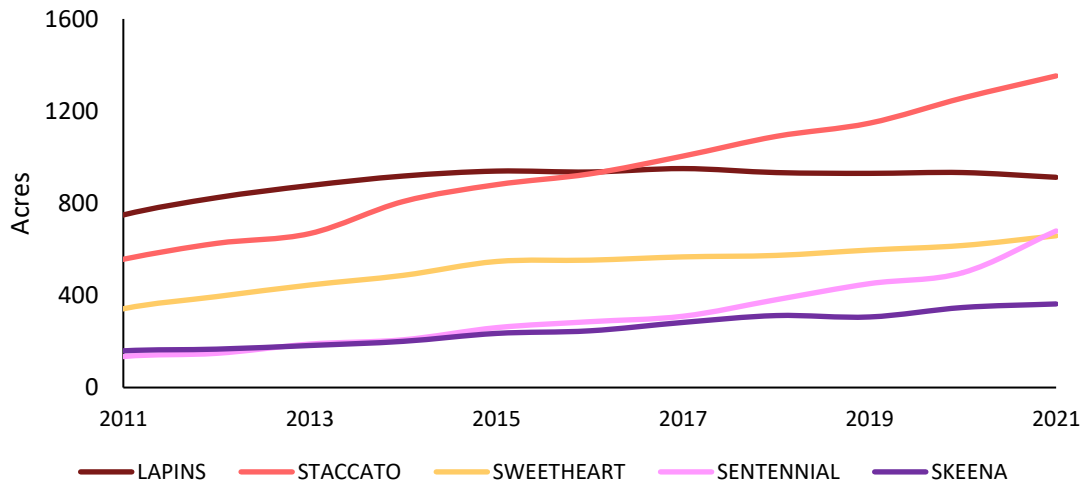


Figure 4.2.1. Cherry Varieties in B.C Over Time

Acreage of all five top cherry varieties have shown growth from 2011 to 2021 (Figure 4.2.1; above). While Lapins still represents the second largest area in production, its growth plateaued in 2016 and subsequently was overtaken by Staccato. Sentennial also had a greater growth rate from 2016 to 2021 than it did prior to 2016.

Unlike apple acreage, which is dominated by only two varieties (Ambrosia and Gala) in all regions, cherry varieties vary by region. Lapins and Staccato are the most common in the South Okanagan and Creston regions. Sentennial and Lapins are the most common in the Central Okanagan and Sweetheart and Lapins are the most popular in the North Okanagan.



## 5. Wine Grapes

### 5.1 Wine Grape Overview

B.C. had just over 8,500 acres of wine grapes in 2021. Since 2015 (when apple acreage began declining), wine grape acreage has grown by approximately 4.0% annually. The largest increase in wine grape acreage was in 2021. In 2020, the province had approximately 7,700 acres in wine grapes and by 2021, 8,500. This represents an 11% increase in acreage. Figure 5.1.1 (below) shows acreage increase over time.

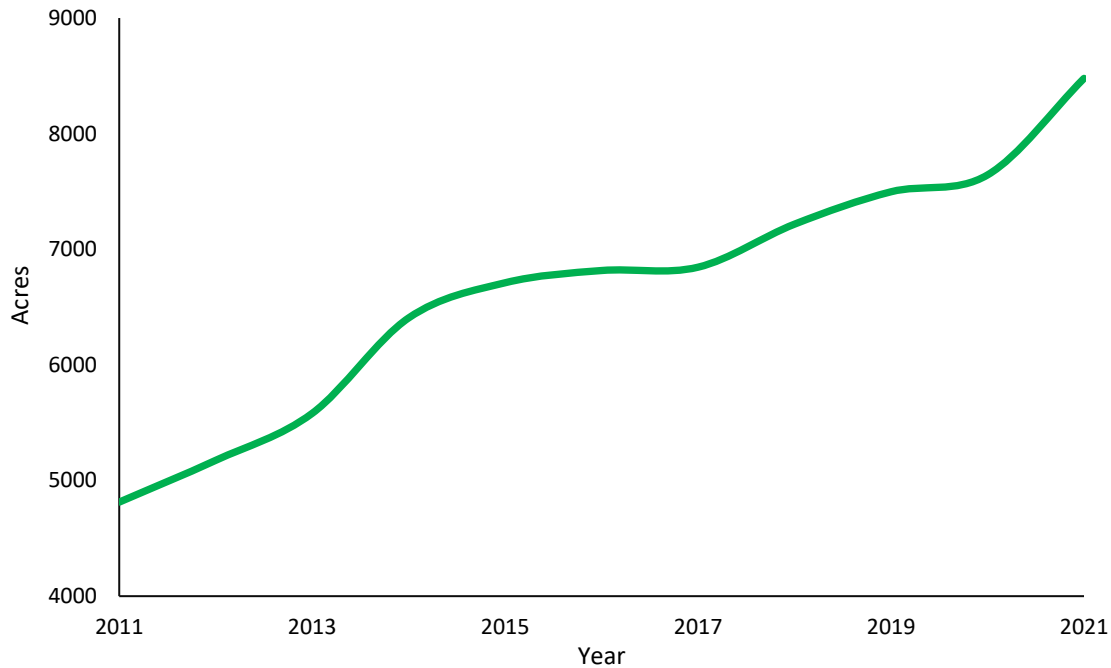


Figure 5.1.1. B.C.'s Wine Grape Acreage, 2011 to 2022

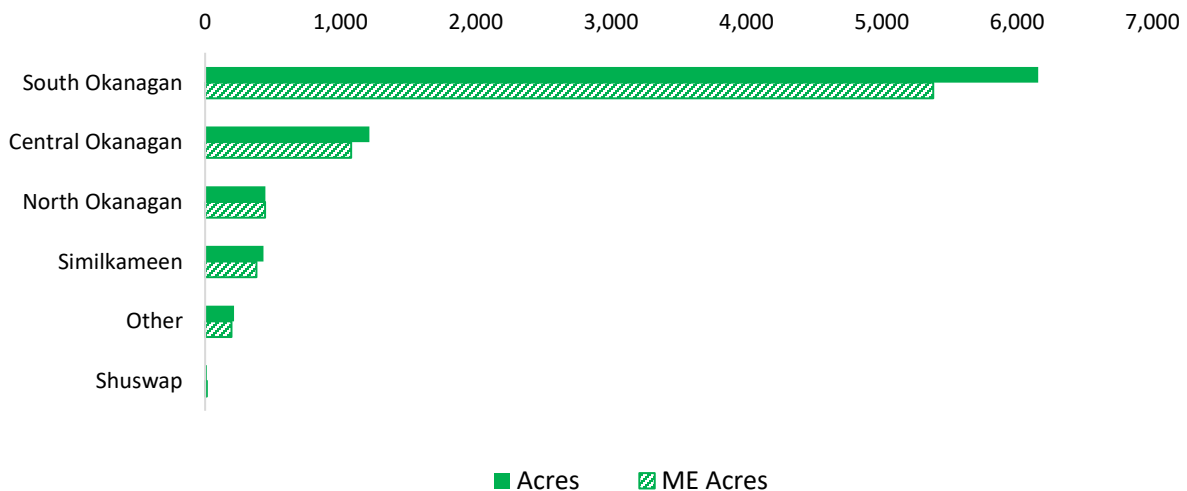


Figure 5.1.2. Wine grape acreage by region (2021)

Wine grapes are primarily grown in the South Okanagan region followed by the Central Okanagan region, with over 6,157 and 1,215 acres, respectively (Figure 5.1.2; above.) In the South Okanagan, there is a large difference between acreage and ME acres (i.e., there is a large acreage differential). The large acreage differential suggests that there is a large amount of young trees. The South Okanagan has the largest acreage differential percentage, meaning that there is a relatively high proportion of young trees in that region.

## 5.2 Wine Grapes in the South Okanagan

An interesting question emerges when comparing apple acreage over time to wine grape acreage over time by region. The only region that apple acreage is decreasing is also the region where wine grape acreage is increasing, the South Okanagan.

In that region, apple acreage has declined, almost linearly, since 2017. Interestingly, we don't see any great increase in cherry acreage in the region at that exact time. The massive increase in wine grape acreage doesn't start occurring until 2020, when the apple industry had already seen a loss of 420 acres since 2017 (Figure 5.2.1; below). Additionally, by 2021, wine grape acreage had increased 856 acres from where it was in 2017, and apple acreage only decreased 580 acres. This suggests that the decline in the apple acreage may not be caused by wine grapes directly, (i.e., farmers replacing apple trees for grape vines). However, it is possible that the amount of time it takes to switch production results in a delay between apple acreage decrease and cherry acreage increases. To clarify, this report makes no attempt to explain the shift in acreage patterns for tree fruits in the province, it merely summarizes and describes the current state of tree fruit acreage and maturity.

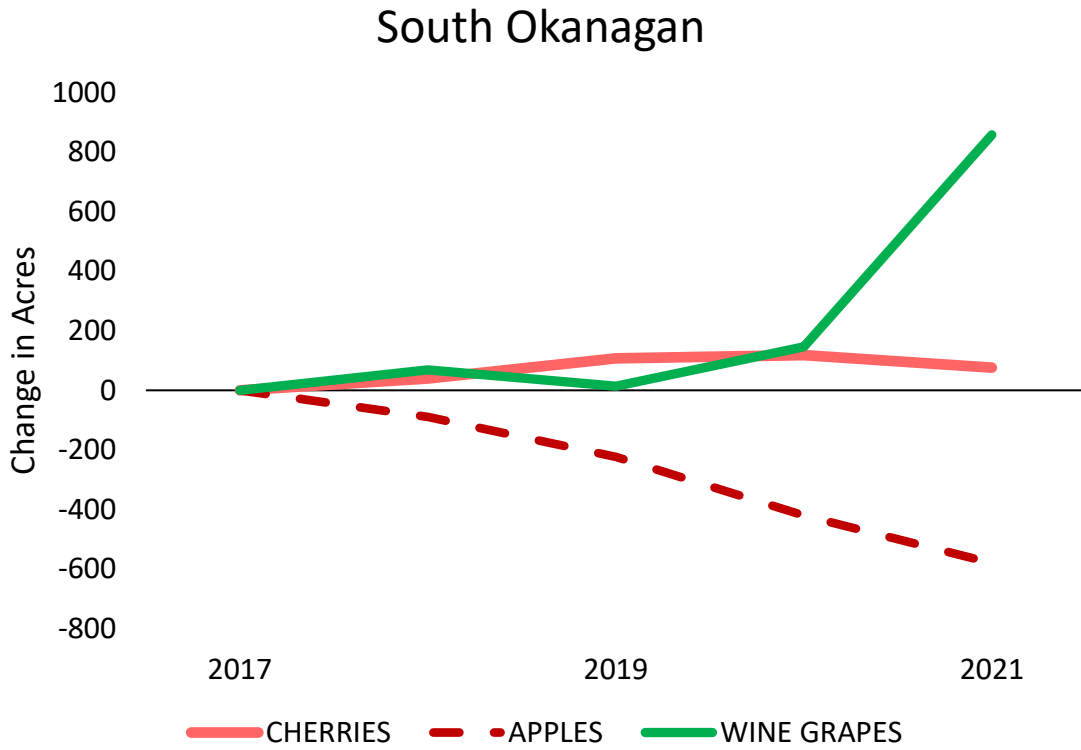


Figure 5.2.1. Total Change in Apples, Cherries, and Wine Grapes in the South Okanagan; Centered at 2017

## 6. Next Steps

### 6.1 Next Steps

The Business Risk Management Division (BRM) collects these data annually. However, the above report will be updated every second year.