



2025 Grape Acreage and Production Report

British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food

July, 2026

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Executive summary

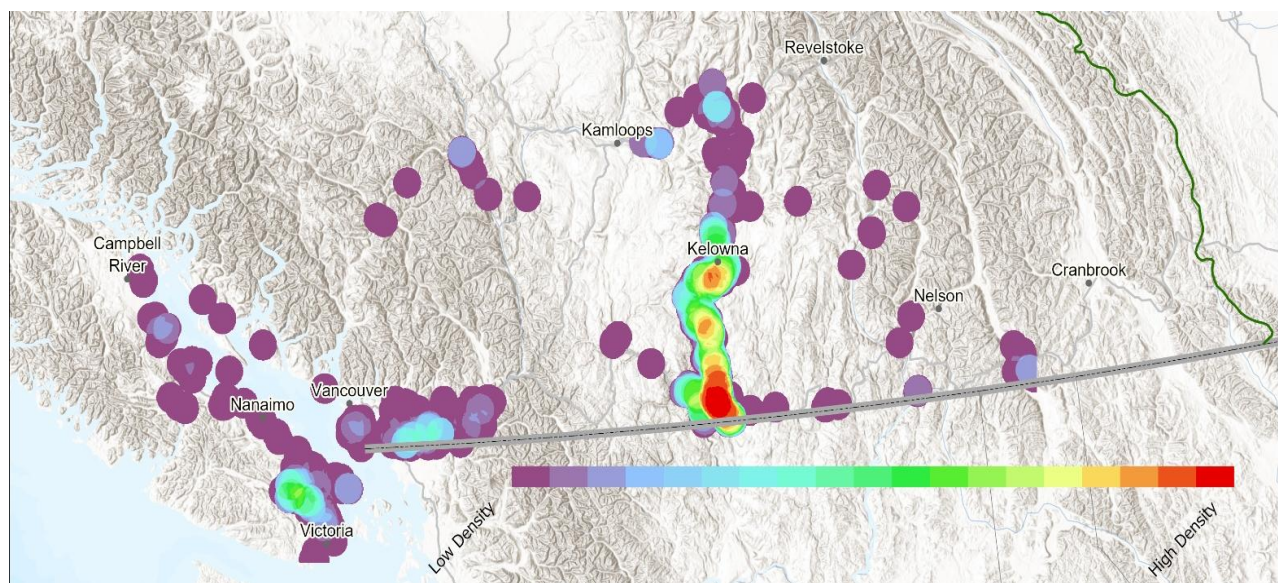
British Columbia's grape industry is currently rebounding from a devastating period during which a series of climate-related shocks severely impacted acreage and production, particularly in the Okanagan Valley. A previous report published for the BC Wine Grape Council analyzed changes in acreage and variety at small geographic resolutions, demonstrating that the industry is on its way to returning to healthy pre-shock levels. This report builds on that work by offering a comparative analysis of regional acreage and production trends. The goal remains to help B.C.'s producers better understand changes in land use and production, but also to inform the public about the current health of this industry and the regional shifts that have occurred since the climate-related shocks.

Introduction

Background

The grape industry is an important contributor to British Columbia's agriculture sector, with annual farmgate receipts as high as \$80 million in some years.¹ Although grape sales comprised only around 1.1% of total primary agriculture receipts in 2025, the industry provides a key input to B.C.'s expanding wine industry. Grape growers have set up extensive operations in areas of the province conducive to growing, with the majority concentrated in the Okanagan Valley and pockets of the Fraser Valley and Cowichan Valley. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: British Columbia wine grape production heat map



Source: Agriculture Land Inventory, BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food, 2026

As a result of adverse weather events, 2023-2025 was a period of diminished production and sales, with farmgate receipts falling as low as \$12 million in 2024. While the industry now shows signs of healthy recovery, it is important to understand at a granular level the immense changes to the acreage of many regions that have occurred over the last several years, and to evaluate the planting decisions currently being made as this recovery builds momentum. As this recovery also includes many other industries impacted by the climate shocks of 2023 and 2024, the report stands as a complement to its sister publication on tree fruits.

This report is intended to take the most current production insurance data available and showcase the current state of B.C.'s grape growers, situating today's picture within a

¹ Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0364-01

longer timeframe that saw healthy growth followed by a series of climate-related shocks. The report touches on acreage, production, vine maturity, varieties and competition with tree fruits, with a particular focus on regional comparisons. A clearer grasp of these changes is essential for producers to understand how their planting choices fit within the industry's collective response to climate shocks, and within the even larger shifts in consumer tastes and demand.

Data source

This report analyzes changes in the acreage and production of grapes. Unless otherwise noted, the source for all tables and figures is production insurance data from Business Risk Management (BRM) Branch, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food. As such, the data includes only those farms that insure their crop. The data includes year, geographic indicator, varietal, area, and output. The last year of data available is 2026 for acreage and 2025 for production.²

Caveats and limitations

There are several data limitations that affect reliability and validity. Users should exercise caution in extrapolating or drawing inferences from the numbers provided in this report.

- BRM production insurance data is not comprehensive, as some growers opt not to insure their crop. According to estimates from BRM, coverage includes approximately 86-90% of grape acres across the province.
- Data is collected at the insurance contract level, regardless of location of production. Some producers have operations in multiple locations, but data is attributed to the location of the main operation. As a result, some areas may be underrepresented and others overrepresented, though the discrepancy is likely too small to affect the main trends.
- Changes in coverage rates over time can cause changes in area and production data, independent of changes caused by growers' business decisions. Annual fluctuations in the number of insured producers should be evaluated alongside fluctuations in acreage and production. See Table 1.

² Acreage is insured before the start of the calendar year but production is recorded after the year has ended, hence the difference in the most recent year's data available for these two variables.

Table 1: Insured grape producer counts, 2022-2026³

Commodity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Table grapes	18	18	23	27	32
Wine grapes	271	295	324	340	390
Total	279	304	334	359	410

Geographic hierarchy

Growers who opt to purchase production insurance have their operations assigned to an Insurance Area, where most or all their business operations occur. There are 50 Insurance Areas. These are consolidated into Areas, and Areas into Regions. The following reference table contains the geographic hierarchy. For boundary descriptions of each region, see Appendix 1.⁴

Table 2: Area and Region reference table

Area	Region
Kelowna, Lake Country, West Kelowna/Peachland	Central Okanagan
Oliver, Osoyoos	South Okanagan
Naramata, Penticton ⁵ , Summerland	South Central Okanagan
North Okanagan ⁶	North Okanagan
Similkameen	Similkameen
Thompson, Shuswap	Thompson/Shuswap
Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley	Coast
Creston Valley, Boundary	Kootenay

Definitions

Producer

A producer is an insurance applicant who has an insurable interest in the crop being insured. For example, the producer owns the plants through land ownership, lease or some other agreement, and is entitled to the proceeds of the crop produced on that land. Where multiple interests exist, producers are treated separately only if they can establish

³ Commodity counts do not sum to the total because some producers grow and insure both. Note that BRM changed the definition of an independent farmer in 2022; therefore, only the last five years are displayed.

⁴ For clarity, and in keeping with the data source's nomenclature, the capitalized "Area" refers to a geographically bounded area, such as Kelowna, where small-caps "area" denotes a measurement variable, and is therefore often used synonymously with acreage in this report.

⁵ Including Kaleden and Okanagan Falls.

⁶ Including Vernon.

legal, financial and operational independence; otherwise, they are combined as a single producer.

Acres

$$Acre = \frac{Vine\ count \times plant\ spacing\ (ft) \times row\ spacing\ (ft)}{43,560 \frac{ft^2}{acre}}$$

Mature equivalent acres and young acres

A mature equivalent acre – referred to in this report as a mature acre – is an acre that has been multiplied by its maturity factor, expressed as a percentage. Maturity factor refers to the vines’ percent development as a fraction of their full crop production potential. For example, 10 acres of vines are only producing 70% of a full crop would be the equivalent of 7 acres of vines with full production potential. Removing differences in maturity allows for more accurate comparison of productivity levels across different geographic areas, years and varieties.

The difference between the *real* number of acres and the *derived* number of mature acres is an area referred to as “young acres” in this report. Although not completely synonymous with newly planted vines (as it can also reflect the removal of mature acres), it is a reasonable proxy. The higher the number, the lower the average maturity. In the example above, young acres = 3.

Provincial overview

Grape production in B.C. has been in a state of flux for several years, facing a series of climate-related shocks. Severe cold snaps in late 2022 and January 2024, combined with ongoing drought and heat dome events, have severely impacted the industry, with the 2024 freeze resulting in the near-total destruction of that year’s crop.⁷ The following provincial overview is broken down into wine and table grapes.

Wine grapes typically account for around 99% of total grape acreage and 98% of total grape production. Approximately 1,970 insured acres were removed from production in 2025; however, almost all this area (1,870 acres) was replanted in 2026, bringing the total

⁷ [Supporting British Columbia's Devastated Wine Industry \(2024\) | British Columbia Chamber of Commerce](#)

acreage to within 100 acres of 2024 levels. Annual trends in wine grape acreage and production are displayed in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Provincial wine grape area (acres) and production (tons), 2017-2026

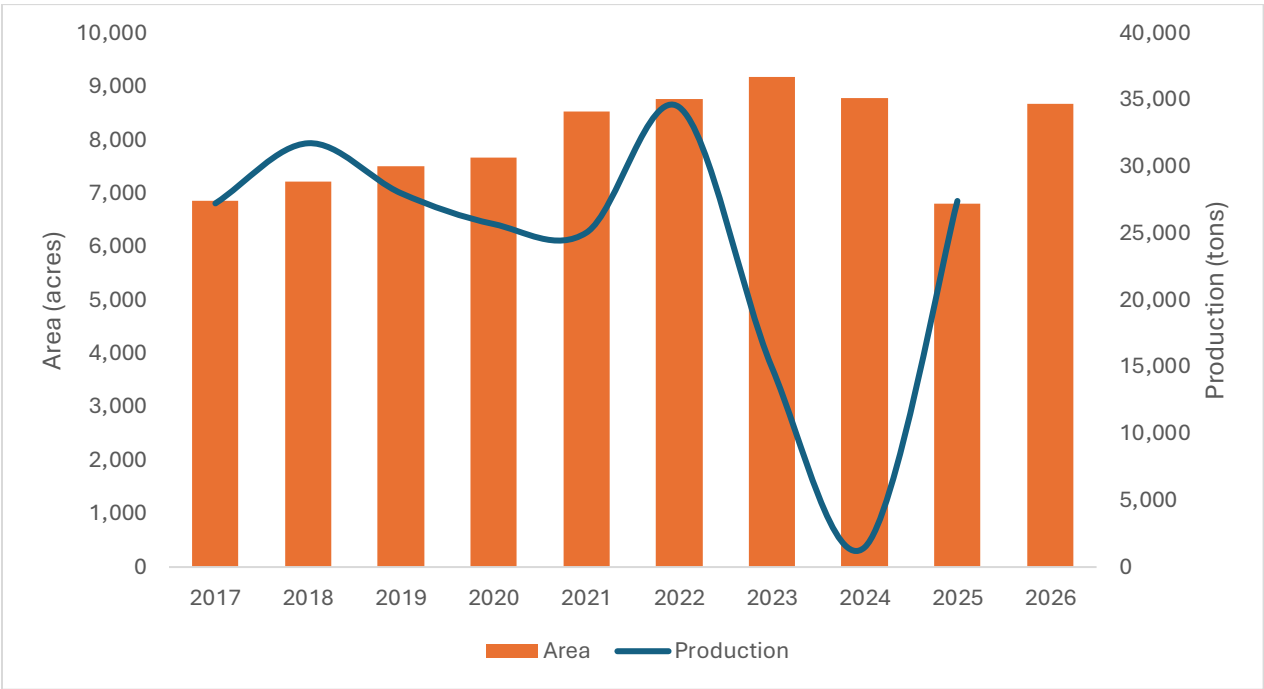


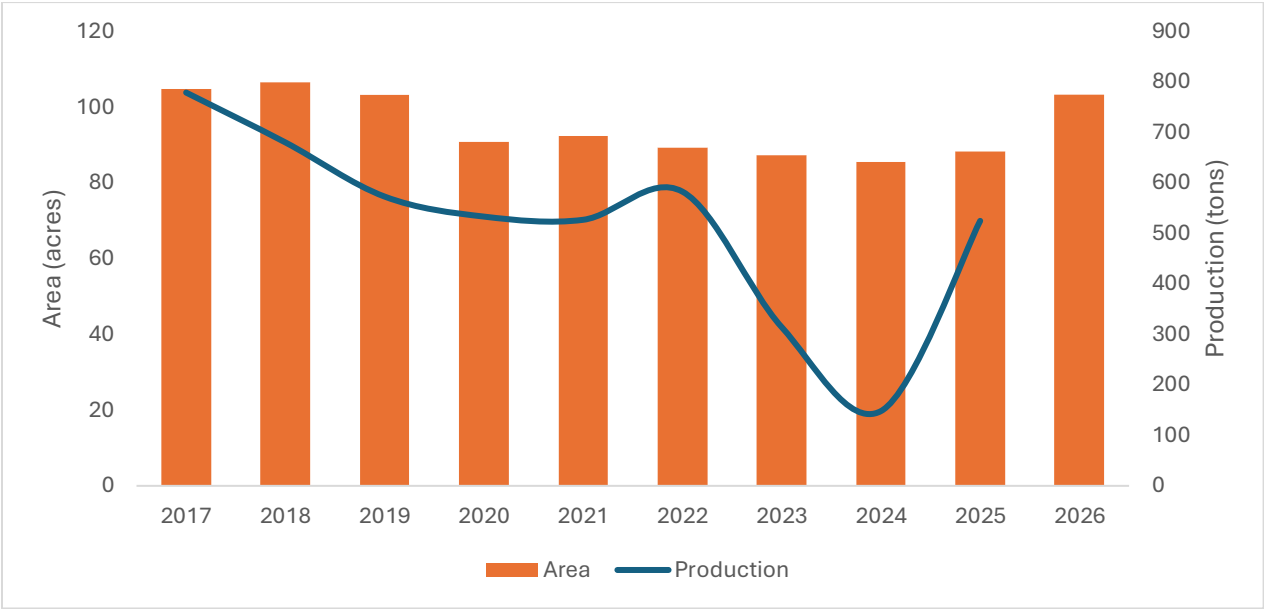
Table 3 displays data on the top six varieties of wine grapes. (Because of their significantly larger scale, as well as the confidentiality issues of analyzing table grapes by variety and region, this report will focus mainly on wine grapes.) These varieties account for approximately two-thirds of total area and production.

Table 3: Area (acres), production (tons) and yield (tons/acre) by top six varieties of wine grapes, 2025-2026

Variety	2026 Area (acres)	2025 Production (tons)	2025 Yield (tons/acre)
Pinot Noir	1,217	2,858	3.3
Merlot	1,175	4,125	4.9
Chardonnay	1,084	2,465	3.2
Cabernet Franc	1,033	3,877	4.6
Pinot Gris	832	3,024	4.2
Cabernet Sauvignon	668	2,016	3.8
All others	2,676	9,079	4.1
Total	8,686	27,443	4.0

Table grapes, also called fresh grapes, are much smaller in scale. Like wine grapes, they also suffered severe production losses in 2023 and 2024. Unlike wine grapes, producers generally did not remove acres from production. Table grapes accounted for approximately 103 insured acres in 2026, a large jump over the previous year. Over half of this acreage (57%) is in Kelowna, 26% in Oliver, and 11% in Osoyoos.

Figure 3: Provincial fresh grape area (acres) and production (tons), 2017-2026



Around 80-85% of annual table grape acreage in the province is the Sovereign Coronation variety, where production has been heavily concentrated over the past few years (95%+). Most of the remaining acreage is devoted to Concord, Himrod and Einset.

Analysis by region and area

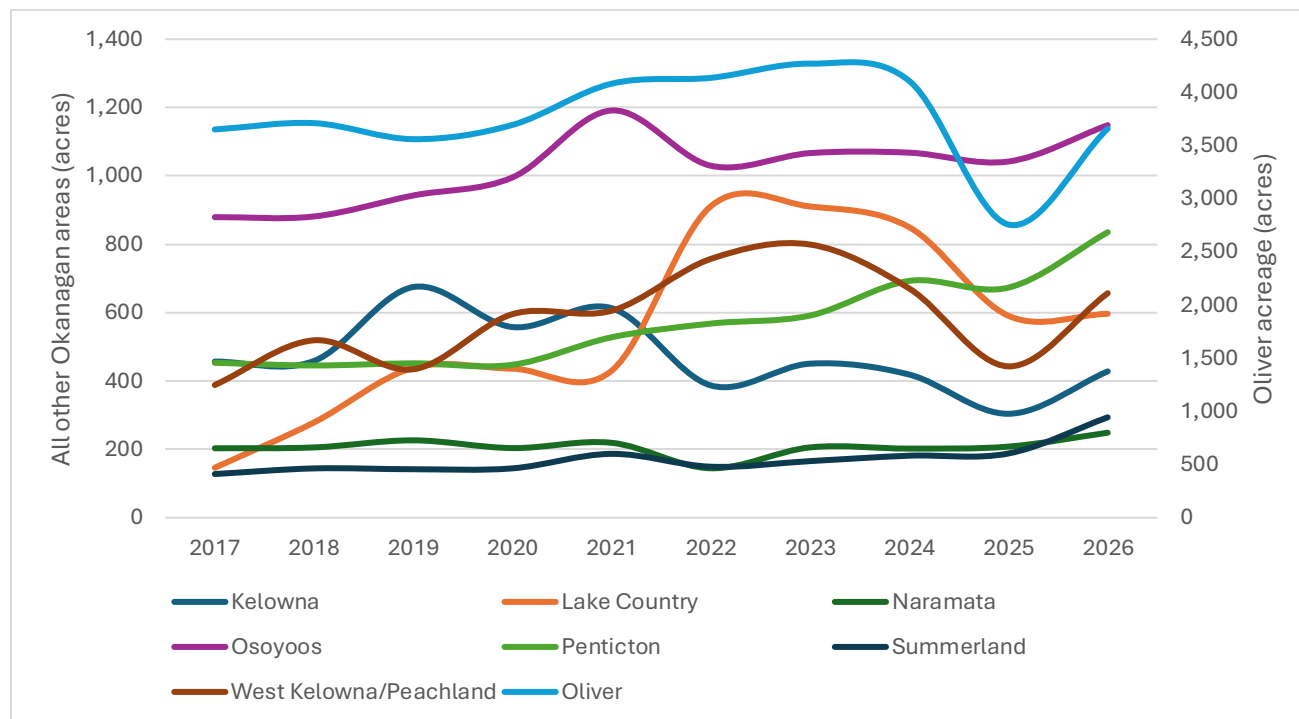
Production insurance for wine grapes is divided into eight geographic Regions, each of which is subdivided into Areas (see Table 1). Because the Okanagan Valley is responsible for 91% of growing area and 95% of output, a comparative analysis was conducted of its eight Areas.⁸ The remaining regions are compared in the final section. The last ten years of data are displayed.

⁸ North Okanagan has had little to no insured acreage or production for the past 5 years, so it is excluded.

Okanagan Valley Areas comparison

Insured wine grape acreage in the Okanagan Valley has fluctuated greatly, some areas more so than others. The first half of the decade was stable or increasing across the valley compared to the latter half, which saw increased volatility and a divergence in growth pathways. See Figure 4.⁹

Figure 4: Wine grape area (acres) in the Okanagan Valley, 2017-2026

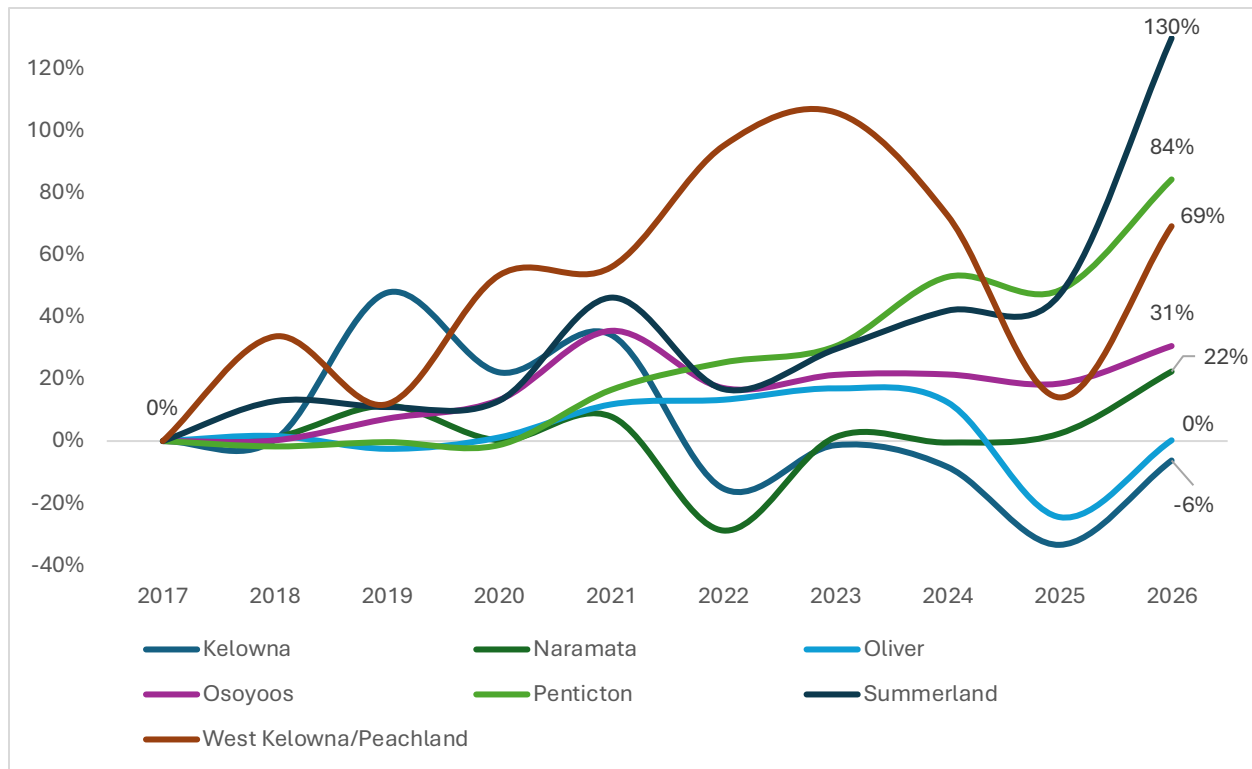


An alternative way to visualize these acreage trends is by cumulative growth rate. All areas except Kelowna and Oliver have more insured acres than a decade ago, with smaller areas like Lake Country and Summerland experiencing double-digit growth. See Figure 5.¹⁰

⁹ Given its significantly larger scale, Oliver's acreage is expressed on the secondary (i.e., righthand) axis to better display all area trends within a single graph.

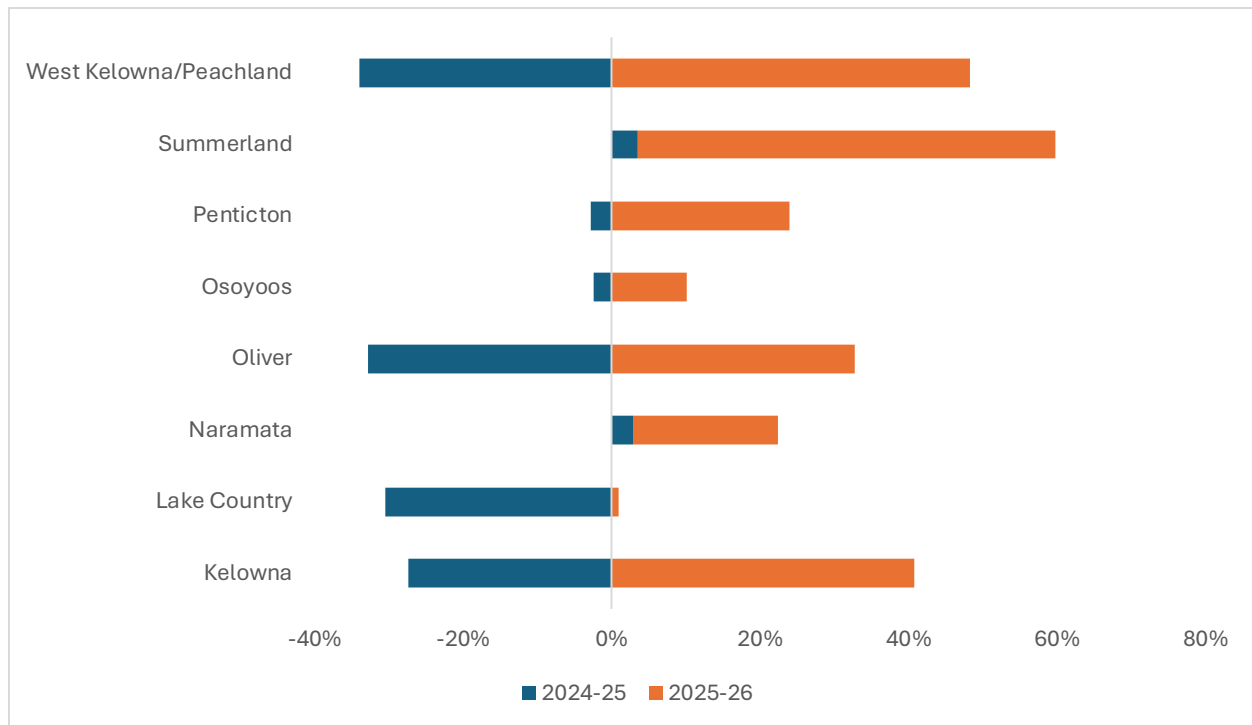
¹⁰ Lake Country's acreage has quadrupled over the period (308% growth), so it has been removed in order to better illustrate trends in other Areas.

Figure 5: Cumulative annual growth rate of wine grape area in the Okanagan Valley, 2017-2026



Close to 2,000 insured acres were removed from production following the 2024 freeze, two-thirds of which occurred in Oliver. It and several other Areas removed more than 20% of their acres from production in 2025. By 2026, all areas in the Okanagan Valley had re-added acres, around 1,700 in total. Lake Country was the only area severely affected by the freeze that did not respond with aggressive replanting. Oliver and Lake Country are the only Areas that remain below their 2024 levels, while Kelowna and West Kelowna/Peachland effectively have the same acreage as in 2024.

Figure 6: Change in wine grape acreage by area, 2024-2026



The above charts describe acres; however, not all acres are equivalent. Depending on maturity, some are more productive than others. The “mature equivalent” acre is a statistical adjustment to a producer’s growing area designed to standardize maturity. (See the section “Mature equivalent acres and young acres” above.) This measure allows for better comparisons of productivity and offers a window into which areas tend to have the “youngest”, or least mature, acres on average.

Table 4 displays the young acre ratio, defined as the number of young acres over total acres. While only the last five years are provided, all areas are at or beyond their highest ratios recorded, a sign that many Areas' wine grape farms are far from full maturity.

Table 4: Young acre ratio by Okanagan Valley area, 2022-2026

Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Kelowna	14%	21%	16%	11%	20%
Lake Country	2%	4%	9%	12%	20%
Naramata	7%	11%	7%	11%	14%
Oliver	10%	9%	11%	18%	28%
Osoyoos	17%	14%	16%	19%	20%
Penticton	10%	12%	21%	15%	24%
Summerland	17%	8%	10%	11%	21%
West Kelowna/Peachland	9%	11%	16%	26%	39%

Surprisingly, when analyzing the top varieties by young acre ratio in the Okanagan Valley, the only sizable variety in the top 20 is Sauvignon Blanc (46%). Chardonnay and Pinot Noir both have 31%, and Merlot 27%. Several white varieties appear among the lowest ratios, such as Roussanne, Marsanne, Auxerrois, Muscat, Riesling and Gewurztraminer. While this greater experimentation with planting uncommon varieties may be healthy to see, 71% of the young acres in 2026 are still attributable to the six varieties listed in Table 3.

Wine grape production in most areas peaked in the late 2010s (incidentally, when most Areas' young acre ratios were in the low single digits) and began to fall around 2022, culminating in near-total loss during the winter freeze of 2024. In line with the replanting noted above, the latest 2025 production numbers show a healthy rebound occurring, with several Areas at or near their highest tonnage levels in the past decade. See Table 5.¹¹

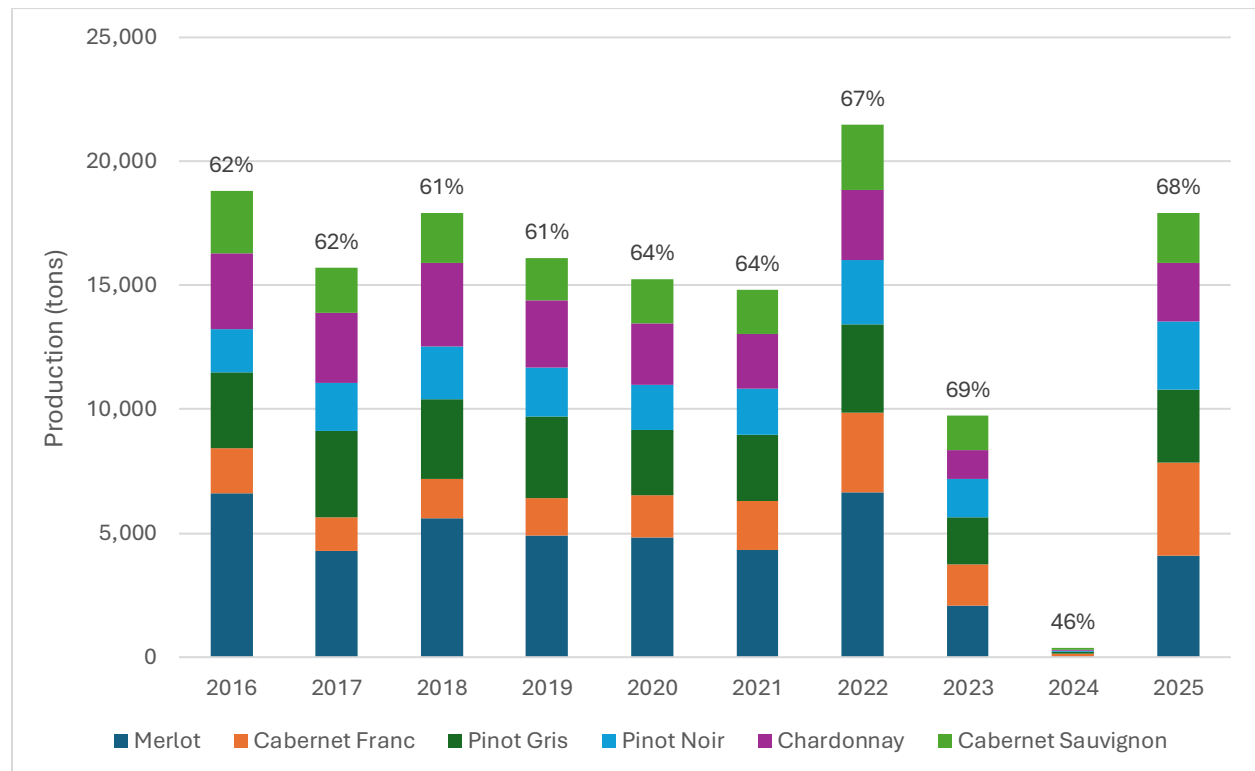
Table 5: Okanagan Valley wine grape production (tons), 2016-2025

	Kelowna	Lake Country	Naramata	Oliver	Osoyoos	Penticton	Summerland	West Kelowna/Peachland
2016	1,794	659	840	17,783	5,267	2,210	434	1,569
2017	1,636	622	707	14,512	3,522	1,961	566	1,806
2018	1,703	875	806	16,914	4,558	1,838	696	1,807
2019	2,125	1,238	563	13,383	4,954	1,691	543	1,861
2020	1,235	1,272	635	12,688	4,458	1,560	393	1,586
2021	1,746	1,201	397	11,786	4,854	1,584	395	1,368
2022	714	3,174	535	17,293	6,112	1,821	577	1,829
2023	470	1,359	355	6,499	2,572	1,505	371	1,053
2024	174	93	30	171	217	22	5	96
2025	1,375	1,938	681	10,858	6,468	2,409	809	1,650

¹¹ It is worth repeating the main caveat of this report, that acreage and production data may show increases due to changes in production insurance coverage rates, independent of real changes on the ground. Based on Table 1, there is evidence that additional producers chose to insure their crop following the 2024 freeze.

Except for the anomalous year of 2024, Merlot has had the largest production of any variety in the Okanagan Valley over the past decade, with Chardonnay and Cabernet Franc usually the next two. This trend shifted in 2025, which may be part of a larger shift in replanting occurring after the 2024 freeze. At the same time, the top 6 varieties together have taken up a larger share of regional production over time. See Figure 7.¹²

Figure 7: Okanagan Valley wine grape production (tons) by top six varieties, 2016-2025

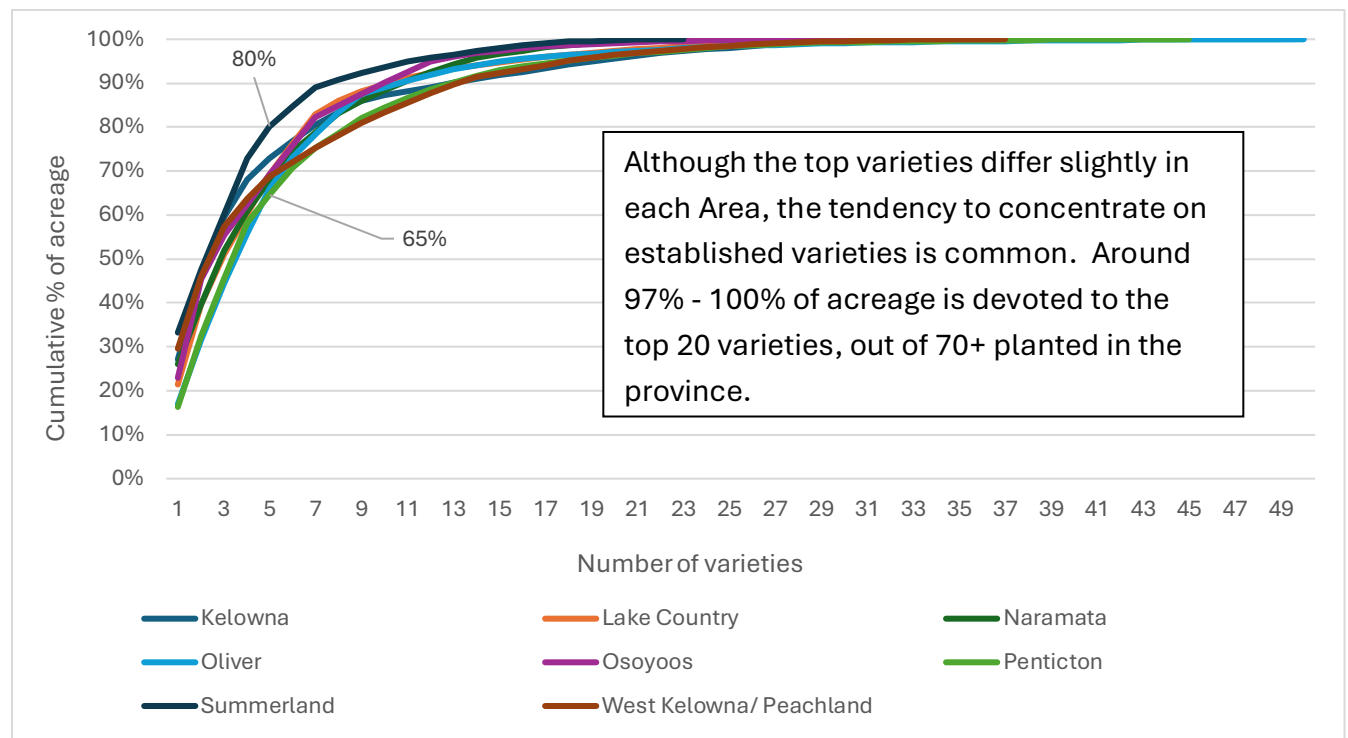


**The percentage above each bar denotes the share of total production by the top six varieties.

Production trends by variety are, to some extent, influenced by weather and overall growing conditions, while acreage more directly reflects producers' planting choices. Another way to visualize the concentration of varieties by area is to plot their acreage distribution along a curve. See Figure 8. For example, the top five varieties – which differ by Area – comprise anywhere from 65% to 80% of a particular Area's insured acreage.

¹² 2024 is an exception due to the greater diversity of varieties grown in other parts of the province, which were largely unaffected by the winter freeze that destroyed much of the Okanagan's Valley's production.

Figure 8: Variety concentration by area, 2026



Producers' decisions on whether to plant tree fruits or wine grapes may reflect the soil and microclimate of available land. To the extent that some land is substitutable between (and within) these two commodity groups, planting decisions may also reflect forward-looking beliefs about shifts in market demand. All eight Areas in the Okanagan Valley are home to both tree fruits and wine grapes, though the composition in each Area is very different and has changed over time. The grape-to-tree-fruit acreage ratio is one way to measure the use of land.

Kelowna and Oliver have the greatest total insured acres, around 5,300 and 5,500 respectively, though Kelowna devotes ten times as much area to tree fruits as to grapes, while Oliver devotes twice as much area to grapes. All other Areas have seen a strong shift over the past decade toward wine grape acreage, regardless of what the predominant commodity is, with the regional ratio peaking at 95% in 2023. Because Kelowna and Oliver's acreage count for so much of the regional total, their shift in the opposite direction over the past decade – toward greater tree fruit production – means that the total regional ratio has changed only a little since 2017, from 71% to 77%.¹³

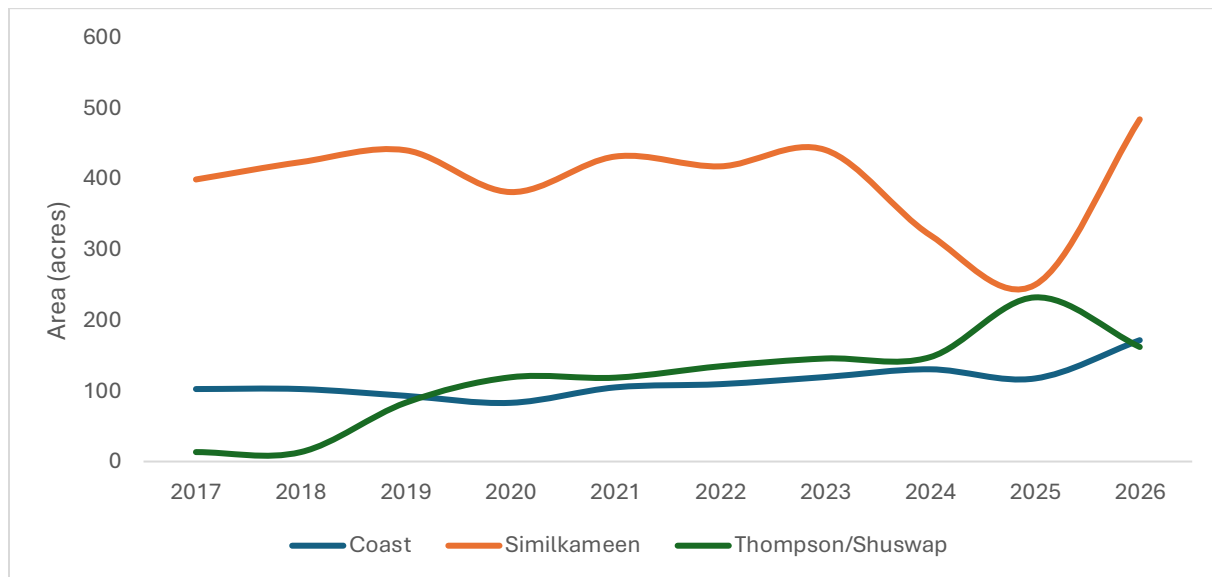
¹³ This ratio, which says that there is 0.77 acres of grapes for every acre of tree fruits, can be stated differently: 43.5% of acreage is grapes, 56.5% tree fruit.

Other wine grape growing regions

The other wine grape regions where producers insure their crop include Similkameen, Thompson/Shuswap, the Coast (including Vancouver Island), and the Kootenays. Because the last has had little to no insured acreage or production over the past five years, it is excluded from this section.

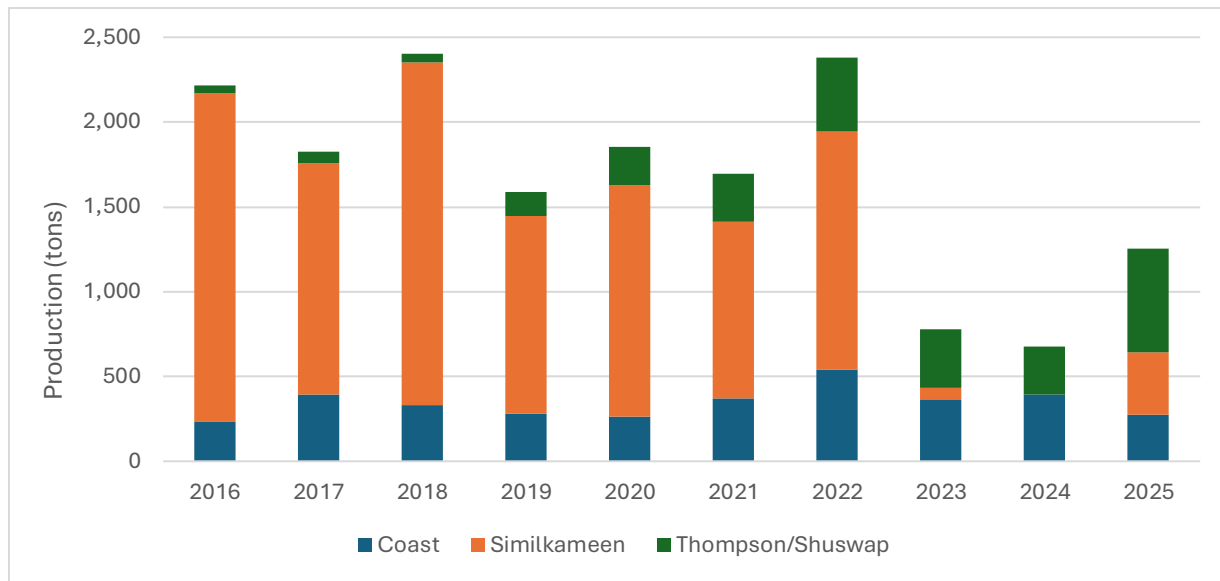
The other three accounted for 818 insured acres in 2026, or 9.4% of wine grape acreage. See Figure 9. Similkameen producers have replanted aggressively following the 2024 freeze, from which the Thompson/Shuswap and the Coast were unaffected.

Figure 9: Wine grape area (acres) in other regions, 2017-2026



Similkameen accounted for most of the production outside the Okanagan Valley until 2023, when output fell sharply. Production has since picked back up in line with increased acreage but is still a long way from previous levels. Despite a small setback in 2024, Thompson/Shuswap's production continues to increase steadily. See Figure 10.

Figure 10: Wine grape production (tons) in other regions, 2016-2025



Where the variability in production is due to recent weather shocks, it is no surprise to see higher young acre ratios, as producers remove older vines from production and plant new ones. Though not shown in Table 6, it is interesting to note that Thompson/Shuswap's ratio was 12-18% in the years leading up to 2022, a possible leading indicator of the steady increases in output now occurring.

Table 6: Young acre ratio of other wine grape regions, 2022-2026

Young acres	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Coast	1%	11%	9%	3%	13%
Similkameen	18%	19%	21%	51%	55%
Thompson/Shuswap	11%	3%	12%	15%	11%

Lastly, a common feature of the regions outside of the Okanagan Valley is their greater diversity of grape varieties. Not only are the top 10 planted varieties more likely to be different than the ones shown in Table 3, but their concentration is also less skewed than what is shown in Figure 8 as well.

Appendix 1: Region boundaries

Region	Description
Central Okanagan	Greata Ranch to Kalamalka Lake
South Okanagan	South of McIntyre Creek Rd to the US border. East of Nighthawk Rd and Oliver Cawston Rd summit. West of Anarchist summit.
South Central Okanagan	North of McIntyre Creek Rd to South of Greata Ranch
North Okanagan	Kalamalka Lake to Mara Lake
Similkameen	West of Nighthawk Rd, Oliver Cawston Rd summit and Yellow Lake. East of Hedley.
Thompson/ Shuswap	Sicamous and Malakwa West to Pemberton. South of Barriere. North of Yale (West) and Mara Lake (East).
Coast	Vancouver Island, South of Pemberton and West of Hope
Kootenay	East of Big White and Anarchist Summit to Alberta Border