



# 2009 GUIDELINES

## BCFGA TREE FRUIT REPLANT PROGRAM

---

<b>GENERAL GUIDELINES</b>	<b>2</b>
1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	2
2. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS	3
3. ORCHARD REPLANT PROGRAM GRANTS	4
4. STANDARDS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS	4
5. APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCESS	5
6. APPEAL PROCESS	6
<b>HORTICULTURAL GUIDELINES</b>	<b>6</b>
7. VARIETIES	6
8. DENSITIES, SPACING AND ROOTSTOCK	6
9. FERTIGATION, SOIL TESTING AND FUMIGATION	7
10. BUDWOOD AND NURSERY STOCK	7
<b>BUSINESS PLAN GUIDELINES</b>	<b>7</b>
11. OBJECTIVE	7

**Note - Grafting/Budding application must be completed on a separate application and cannot be included on the same application as a replant project.**

### **FURTHER INFORMATION - please contact:**

BCFGA Tree Fruit Replant Program  
Research Station, Box 6000  
Summerland, British Columbia V0H 1Z0  
Website: [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com)

Toll Free 1-800-665-5254  
Telephone (250) 494-5021  
Fax (250) 494-5024

## GENERAL REPLANT GUIDELINES

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

Before proceeding with a replant project and application under the 2009 Tree Fruit Replant Program it is strongly recommended that you consult with a professional horticulturist or fieldperson in order to ensure project viability and success.

Completed applications will be received on a first come first serve basis. Applications that are received after all program funding has been committed will be placed on a wait list provided the application qualifies under the program guidelines. The wait list will also be managed on a first come first serve basis. **There is no guarantee that projects that are placed on the wait list will receive funding.**

Modifications to previously approved applications that result in an increase in the replant grant and/or acreage will be reviewed and considered based on the date the changes are received in the office. Once funding has been fully committed, any increase resulting from these changes will be placed on the wait list according to the date the changes were received in our office.

Applications are reviewed by a Committee of industry horticultural advisors. Following application review and a decision to approve, the Program Administrator (“the Administrator”) will provide a formal letter of approval. If the applicant proceeds prior to receiving this letter from the Administrator, the project may be entirely at **the applicant’s own cost.**

To be eligible for assistance under the 2009 Orchard Replant Program, projects must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator by July 31, 2009.

Applicants applying for the 2009 replant year will receive a confirmation form listing the details of their replant plans. Applicants will be asked to review this information and update any changes from their original application. **If the applicant does not return his/her confirmation form by the deadline date, the replant application may be cancelled.** This will allow the Administrator to monitor the available replant funds and a wait list should funding be fully committed.

Applicants may be requested to provide ongoing performance data with respect to the project.

## **1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The applicant must be actively engaged in tree fruit production and responsible for the operations of the orchard.

The applicant must be the owner (or lessee) of the land to be replanted. The owner (and in the case of leased property, both the owner and the lessee), must certify an intention to maintain the property as a commercial orchard operation for a period of at least 5 years from the date of replanting. Applicants with projects that are removed within that 5 year period may be required

to repay any grants paid.

The orchard must have at least **2.47** acres (1 hectare) in tree fruits and be in the Province of British Columbia.

## **2. 2009 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

The following fruit trees are eligible: apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, prunes.

**Priority will be given to new varieties, but traditional varieties may also qualify. (see variety section)**

An area of orchard equal to the area to be replanted must have been taken out of production from one of these tree fruits within the past three years. It is the intent of the program to enable orchardists to replant on the site from which trees were removed. Plantings to different sites may qualify if the Administrator judges the project to be horticulturally sound, financially viable and an integral part of the applicant's orchard operation. However, credit for an area removed from production may only be used once to qualify for a replant grant.

The minimum area to be replanted is **one acre** (0.4 hectares). Some exceptions may apply for projects less than one acre (See Section 3).

The trees must be planted

- in the year approved under the replant application,
- in the case of planted in place nursery stock, in a previous year.

**The maximum eligible acreage for 2009 is 10 acres per farm operation.**

The following types of projects are **not** eligible for consideration:

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

**Note: No grants will be paid on sleeping eyes, benchgrafted rootstock or rootstock budded and permanently planted in 2009. Only finished trees are eligible for a grant in 2009, but such projects are eligible for 2010 grant funding, if adequate provincial funding is available.**

**Direct Farm Marketing (DFM)** applicants. A special program is available for applicants who market at least 50% of their fruit sales to the retail customer. Evidence of that marketing is required and can include financial statements or a business plan that indicates the direct market presence. The project must be at least one acre in total with a minimum of 25 trees, planted in a solid block, of any one variety. Projects totaling less than one acre may be accepted if for reasons of lack of availability of plant material, at the discretion of the Administrator. To qualify a direct farm market declaration DFM form must be completed and is available from the Administrator. Contact the Administrator for a DFM form if you want to apply as a Direct Farm Marketer.

**Test Variety Program** A special program for testing new tree fruit selections is available. Test Variety guidelines: minimum 250 trees, maximum one acre, grower must supply a testing agreement with Okanagan Plant Improvement Company Ltd. ("PICO") satisfactory to the Administrator, commercially released varieties are not eligible, contact PICO for information on test varieties, the overall application must still meet the minimum one acre replant project size, growers are eligible to replant this acreage within five years and still qualify for funding under the replant program.

### 3. 2009 REPLANT PROGRAM GRANTS

#### **Apples**

The grant will be \$3.50 per tree to a maximum of 2,000 trees per acre for a maximum grant eligibility of \$7,000 per acre.

Best returns are generally obtained from plantings of 1200 to 2000 trees per acre. A minimum of 1200 trees per acre is recommended. **Planting densities of less than 1000 trees per acre will only be considered for valid horticultural reasons acceptable to the Administrator and supported by a horticulturist.**

Apple blocks must be at least one acre comprised of no more than two varieties, however, smaller areas will be considered where an existing block of the same variety is being extended, or as part of the business plan the block is to be extended in the following year(s).

A reasonable number of pollinizers should be incorporated where required.

#### **Soft Fruit and Pears**

The grant for soft fruit and pears will be \$5 per tree to a maximum of 800 trees per acres or \$4,000 per acre.

Blocks must be at least one acre of one commodity, with not more than three varieties, however smaller areas will be considered where for example, an existing block of the same variety is being extended, or if the business plan is to extend the block in the following year(s).

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

### 4. STANDARDS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS

Trees must be robust and under good husbandry.

#### **Planting Deadlines**

Tree planting should be completed by **April 30, 2009**.

Support and irrigation systems must be completed by **July 31, 2009**. **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

- Standard Planting: less than 1500 trees per acre minimum 1/2 inch (13mm)
- Super Spindle: 1500 or more trees per acre minimum 7/16 inch (11mm)

Note: tree caliper is measured approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the bud union  
On apple trees, bud unions must be a minimum of 2 inches (5 cm) above ground.

Orchardists are encouraged to purchase quality trees in order to ensure eligibility under the program. For best results, it is recommended that growers strive for a minimum of 5/8 inch (16 mm) tree caliper for standard plantings of less than 1500 trees per acre and 1/2 inch (13 mm) tree caliper for super spindle plantings of 1500 or more trees per acre.

## Irrigation and Support Systems

Irrigation systems should meet the standards and specifications outlined in the B.C. Trickle Irrigation Manual and the B.C. Sprinkler Irrigation Manual. Support systems should meet the standards outlined in “Support Systems for High-Density Orchards”, published by BCMAL (Bert van Daltsen) 1989. It is recommended that growers use Certified Irrigation Designers for the irrigation plan. Growers may get additional funding for upgrading irrigation systems by completing an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). (see [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com))

## 5. APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCESS

**Completed applications will be considered in the order of receipt and subject to the availability of funds.**

If the application is approved in principle, a letter confirming this will be sent to the applicant.

Applications will be evaluated on the following basis:

- a. meeting the criteria in the guidelines;
- b. horticultural soundness; and
- c. financial viability.

A confirmation form will be sent to successful applicants early in 2009. This form must be reviewed, signed and returned to the Administrator by the deadline on the form. Failure to do this may mean the funding for the project will be cancelled.

On completion of the planting, the applicant must contact the Administrator. A representative will inspect the project to verify that the project meets these guidelines.

A permanent irrigation system is required for all plantings. A support system for all apple plantings is required, except for systems employing some non-dwarfing rootstocks approved by the Administrator based on sound horticultural practices. The irrigation and support systems must be complete prior to inspection. For cherry plantings, a permanent under tree irrigation system is required.

Trees must be tied to the support system at the time of inspection.

The Administrator reserves the right to delay payment until satisfactory replant project performance can be demonstrated.

## 6. APPEAL PROCESS

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

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

- a. 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,
- b. the issue being appealed is clearly specified in the letter of appeal, and
- c. the applicant agrees to accept the final decision.

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

## HORTICULTURAL GUIDELINES

Consultation with a qualified horticulturist is strongly recommended in planning the project. All applications are reviewed by a Committee of industry horticultural advisors.

## 7. VARIETIES

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the choice of variety is culturally suited to the location and operation. Priority under the program will be given to new varieties. However, other established varieties will be considered providing a business case for that variety is made. However, clearly incorrect variety selections may not be accepted by the program. That case can be presented with the projected budget. The Administrator does not wish to make judgments on the choice of variety but applicants should be aware that a realistic cash flow projection should reflect the profitability of the chosen variety. Applicants should consult with their Horticultural Advisor or packinghouse fieldperson when making the variety decision.

Applicants should be aware that many new varieties require payment of plant patent royalties. We may ask for confirmation of the royalties paid. Contact PICO for information on protected varieties.

## 8. DENSITIES, SPACING AND ROOTSTOCK

### 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 1200 or more trees per acre are the most profitable.

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, B9, M26 and O3 at densities of 1000-2,000 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.

### **Soft Fruit and Pears:**

In general, plant soft fruit and pear varieties as closely as possible to realize early yields. Consider new dwarfing rootstocks as they have more early 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.

Consult with your Horticultural Advisor to obtain advice on spacing suitable for your variety and training system.

## **9. FERTIGATION, SOIL TESTING AND FUMIGATION**

To minimize replant problems it is recommended to test for pH and fertility. Applicants should also consider a soil bioassay test if it is available 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 changes annually applicants should consult with their Horticultural Advisor to ensure that the soil amendment will be helpful.

## **10. 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.

## **BUSINESS PLAN GUIDELINES**

### **11. OBJECTIVE**

Replant Cash flow Projection for the proposed planting is required.

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.