



# 2013 GUIDELINES

## BCFGA TREE FRUIT REPLANT PROGRAM

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### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 1, 2013.**

Applications received after April 1, 2013 may be considered for funding in 2014.

**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 the Program Administrator:**

BCFGA Tree Fruit Replant Program  
1473 Water Street,  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
V1Y 1J6  
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## 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 2013 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. 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 by the Program Administrator.

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 the approval letter from the Administrator, the project may be entirely at **the applicant’s own cost.**

To be eligible for assistance under the 2013 Orchard Replant Program, projects must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator by July 31, 2013.

Applicants applying for the 2013 replant year will receive a confirmation form listing the details of their replant plans. Applicants will be asked to review this information and communicate any changes from their original application by contacting the program administrator.

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. A copy of a recent farm income and expense statement from the applicant’s tax return is required to validate orchard activity.

The applicant must operate at least 5 acres (2 hectares) in tree fruits and be in the Province of British Columbia.

### **2. 2013 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

The following categories of fruit trees are eligible:

1. apples,
2. cherries, and
3. soft fruit (peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, prunes and including pears).

**Priority will be given to new varieties (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 five years.

The minimum area to be replanted is **one acre** (0.4 hectares).

The trees must be planted

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

**The maximum tree fruit acreage eligible for the Replant Program in 2013 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 2 years are not eligible for funding under the new program.

**Note: Sleeping eyes, benchgrafted rootstock or rootstock budded and permanently planted in 2013 will be considered in a subsequent year, but a 2013 application form may be submitted to reserve funding for the project in 2014. See Section 11 for further information.**

### **3. 2013 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.**

Replanted apple blocks must be at least one contiguous acre in size.

A reasonable number of pollinizers should be incorporated where required.

#### **Cherries, and Soft Fruit and Pears**

The grant for soft fruit and pears will be \$3.50 per tree to a maximum of 800 trees per acres or \$2,800 per acre.

Blocks must be at least one acre in size.

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

#### 4. STANDARDS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS

Trees must be robust and under good husbandry.

##### Planting Timelines

Deadline for application is April 1, 2013.

Tree planting should be completed by **May 1, 2013**.

Support and irrigation systems must be completed by **July 31, 2013**. **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 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 same order as received 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.

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 prior to a date set by the administrator.

## **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**

Only high value apple varieties eligible, with the following specific criteria:

- a) Potential of at least \$.25 per pound.
- b) Ambrosia and red strains of Gala.
- c) Other varieties such as Honeycrisp, Pink Lady, new Summerland varieties, cider apple or other varieties with good profit potential will be only considered provided they are suited to the location and site.
- d) Low value varieties such as McIntosh, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Spartans will not be eligible for funding.
- e) Soft fruit varieties must have the potential of achieving high value for the crop grown. An evaluation will be done by the replant review committee to assess qualification under the program.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the choice of variety is culturally suited to the location and operation. 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. **Applicants must to submit proof of royalty payment, where required by the developer of the variety, prior to inspection of the project.** Contact PICO for information on protected varieties (www.picocorp.ca).

## 8. DENSITIES, SPACING AND ROOTSTOCK

### Apples:

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.

### Soft Fruit and Pears:

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

## 9. 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.

## PROJECT CASH FLOW REQUIREMENT

### 10. REPLANT CASHFLOW

A Replant Cash flow Projection for the proposed planting is required. A cash flow spreadsheet is available through fieldperson, consulting horticulturists, or the administrator.

## APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

### 11. Program in Subsequent Years

The applicant may make application for 2014 Replant Projects on the 2013 Replant Program Application Form. Applications will be provisionally approved, subject to meeting program guidelines, availability of funding and any subsequent change in program guidelines made for the 2014 Program. Also see note in Section 2 on 2013 Sleeping Eyes and Benchgrafts).