

# **Guidelines for 2007/08-2010/11 Tree Fruit and Grapevine Removal Program under the BC Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program**

## **1. General Guidelines**

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

**Complete Section A of the Tree Fruit and Grapevine Removal Program application form and sign the back page.**

Completed applications will be processed 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 committed amount 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 the program administrator. Following application review and a decision to approve, the Tree Fruit and Grape Renovation 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 2007/08-2010/11 Removal Program, projects must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator as approved and not completed later than March 31, 2011. Removal projects prior to October 25, 2007 are not eligible.

## **2. Eligibility Requirements**

The applicant must be actively engaged in tree fruit or grape (wine or fresh market) production and responsible for the operations of the orchard or vineyard.

The applicant must be the owner (or lessee) of the land to be renovated. The owner (and in the case of leased property, both the owner and the lessee), must commit to maintain the property as available for agriculture for a period of at least 5 years from the date of removal.

The orchard or vineyard must have at least **2.47** acres (1 hectare) in producing tree fruits or grapes and be in the Province of British Columbia. Density must be a minimum of 100 trees per acre or 400 vines per acre.

### **3. Eligible Projects**

Only fruit tree (apple, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, plums, prune or pear) and grapevine removal projects are eligible under this program. The removal area must have been a commercial producing orchard or vineyard. An area of at least 1 acre\* must be removed in the following manner:

- Trees or vines must be inspected prior to removal except for 2008/09 projects. For projects not inspected prior to removal the administration may, at its sole discretion, accept the following as proof of removal date: production insurance records, receipts from a contractor showing dates of tree removal and/or other documentation acceptable to the administrator to verify dates of removal, location of trees and area of trees removed.
- Completed removal projects will be inspected based on the following criteria:
  - The upper scion portion of the trees and vines, the stumps and as much of the roots as possible must be totally removed and destroyed.
  - Plant material must be chipped and disposed of or burned according to provincial and local government environmental laws and guidelines.
  - Project land must be available for agriculture use for at least a period of 5 years after removal.
  - Project meets the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and does not violate any other provincial, municipal or federal legislation (see Section 4 for guidelines on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act).
- **Limits for projects may be imposed in the event of funding shortages.**
- Projects that have received provincial replant funds within 5 years prior to the application under the removal program are not eligible.
- Have not received a total of federal, provincial and/or municipal funding for plant removal purposes, including the funding from the Tree Fruit and Grapevine Removal Program, exceeding eighty (80) percent of the total allowable cost of \$9,390 per hectare (i.e. \$7,512 per hectare) of completing a Plant Removal project.

*\* Removal projects must be a minimum of one acre in total, but the project application may include removals over multiple years, so long as the project is completed by March 31, 2011. Exceptions to the one acre minimum will be reviewed by the Horticultural Review Committee and a decision on based on horticultural and economic viability will be made.*

#### **4. Guidelines on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act**

The official Guidelines are being developed and will be provided to you shortly. The following website could be used for additional reference:  
[http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/012/001/4-0\\_e.htm](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/012/001/4-0_e.htm)

#### **5. APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCESS**

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

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

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the information provided in the application form and the necessary verifications. Approved applications will be confirmed by letter.

On completion of the tree or vine removal, the applicant must contact the Administrator. A representative will inspect the project to verify that the project meets these guidelines. Applications will be re-evaluated on the basis of the inspection reports.

For successful projects following approval and inspections, a payment \$4,000 per hectare or \$1618.74 /acre is processed.

#### **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.

**Funding for this program is provided by the Government of Canada.**

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

|   |           |                |
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| Tree Fruit and Grape Renovation Administration            | Toll Free | 1-800-665-5254 |
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