



2020 TREE FRUIT REPLANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Table of Contents

1. General Program Information	2
2. Types of Replant Program Funding	3
a. Apple Replant Funds	3
b. Soft Fruit and Pear Replant Funds	3
c. Grafting Funds	3
d. Bioassay Test Funds	3
3. Program Eligibility	3
a. Requirements	3
b. Application Submission and Components	4
c. Application Review	4
d. Planting Policies	5
e. Replant Inspection Process	6
f. Project Payment	6
g. Appeal Process	6
4. Appendix – Tree Fruit Grafting and Budding over Requirements and Guidelines	7
a. General Program Requirements	7
b. Funding	7
c. Inspection	7
d. Project Payment	7
e. Guideline Standards for Replant Plans (Grafting and Budding over)	7

Further Information - please contact:

BC Tree Fruit Replant Program

Phone: 1-250-762-5226 Ext. 1

Email: replant@bcfga.com Website: www.bcfga.com

Mail: BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, BC Fruit Growers' Assoc., 880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4

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1. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Purpose of the Program

The Replant Program is funded by the Province of BC and by the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist with cashflow deficits during the establishment period for new high-value varieties and modern planting practices. Applicants are required to consult with a professional horticulturist or field-person to support project quality and success, and the horticulturist will sign your application to verify their review. For the purposes of this program, tree fruits are apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, and prunes

The program will provide funding, based on the number of eligible trees that meet program requirements. In order to qualify, the project must plant a nursery tree with a 2 year-old scion, or equivalent. For purposes of program eligibility, a bench graft planted in the prior year will be considered equivalent to a nursery tree planted in the current year.

Submitting an Application

For the 2020 Replant Program, the BC Fruit Growers Association (BCFGA) will be accepting applications until November 30, 2019. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

Completed applications will be received by BCFGGA in two ways:

- By email to: replant@bcfga.com no later than 11:59 pm November 30, 2019
- By mail to: BC Fruit Growers Assoc., 880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4
ATTN: BC Tree Fruit Replant Program; post-marked no later than November 30, 2019.

Note: Projects will be considered in the order in which they are received.

General comments on making an application

- The application must be complete to be eligible.
- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding for your project.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Horticultural Review Committee and funding will be allocated to eligible projects.
- Once the funding for the 2020 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program and Tree Fruit Competitiveness Waitlist Fund has been fully allocated, the Replant Program will be closed for the year.
- The Province or the BCFGGA may establish an annual 'waitlist' if the funding allotment for the period is fully committed to approved projects. Projects will be approved in the order in which the projects are received. A wait list will not be carried over to the following year.

2. TYPES OF REPLANT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR APPROVED PROJECTS

a. APPLE REPLANT FUNDS

Apple replant funding is \$3.50 per tree to a maximum eligibility of \$7,625 per acre (2,178 trees per acre).

b. SOFT FRUIT AND PEAR REPLANT FUNDS

Soft fruit and pears replant funding is \$5.50 per tree to a maximum of \$4,400 per acre (800 trees per acre).

c. GRAFTING FUNDS

Grafting project funding is \$1.50 per tree to a maximum of \$3,000 per acre for apple projects (2,000 trees per acre), and \$1,200 per acre for soft fruit, including pears, projects (750 trees per acre).

d. BIOASSAY TEST FUNDS

Bioassay funding is available is an option, at \$300 per application.

To apply for replant or grafting project funding, complete the BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Application Form and submit it to the BCFGa before the deadline. To apply for bioassay funding, ensure the check box in the application BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Application Form is selected, submit a completed bioassay test report under the testing methods of the BC Tree Fruit Co-op and provide a copy of a paid receipt.

3. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

a. REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must be the owner or lessee of the land located in BC to be replanted.
2. The applicant 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 funds paid.
3. The applicant must own or operate an orchard with a total area of at least 5 acres (or 2 hectares) in tree fruits.
4. The minimum eligible acreage of a tree fruit variety replant block for replant funding is 1 acre. If the project is adding onto an existing block of the same commodity and variety then the total contiguous acreage of existing and new commodity and variety must be more than one acre.
5. Replant projects are eligible only in the year of planting finished trees (for purposes of the BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Application, bench grafts planted in the prior year are equivalent to a finished tree planted in the current year.).
6. The maximum eligible acreage for 2020 replant funding is 10 acres per farm operation.
7. The area of orchard to be replanted must have fruit trees removed in the previous 5 years.

The following types of projects are not eligible for consideration:

- × Interplantings in existing orchards.
- × Transplanted trees 3 years or older.
- × Replanted projects that are replaced within five years of the receipt of a previous replant programs.
- × Transplanted trees that were paid under the replant program in a previous year are not eligible for funding under the new program.
- × Trees not part of the block, such as trees planted along a fenceline.

b. APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND COMPONENTS

In order to be considered for replant funding, an applicant must deliver a completed 2020 Project Application before the application deadline. Applications will be considered incomplete if the following are not included in the application:

- Horticultural advisor signature on the application.
- A complete and accurate map of the farm with replant and surrounding planting identified with variety type and planting density. Orientation of rows and identification of buildings and roads is desirable.
- Confirmation of tree order (nursery confirmation of tree order or copy of root stock purchase)
- Bio-Assay Testing Report or soil test report (within the last 3 years). These reports may not be available at application time and a copy of the payment receipt may be provided instead.

If an application remains incomplete at December 1, 2019, the application will be ineligible. The Replant Program will provide written confirmation that a completed application is received.

It is recommended but not a requirement that applicants complete a

1. Replant Plan.
2. A Replant Cash Flow Projection or Business plan.

Ensure that the application is under the same name or 'income tax entity' as the farm or orchard operation or as the land owner.

c. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications are reviewed by the Horticultural Review Committee of industry horticultural advisors and BC Ministry of Agriculture staff. Applications are reviewed for eligibility. The applicant may be requested to make changes to an application to improve the horticultural quality of the project.

Application Review Process:

- The applicant delivers a project application to the BCFGAs prior to the application deadline.
- BCFGAs deliver an email to applicants to confirm the receipt of the application.
- BCFGAs review projects for completeness and missing information requested.
- After the closing date, the BCFGAs Replant Project Review Committee reviews applications to determine if the project meets program requirements.
- BCFGAs send a letter to applicants to notify of project status, (e.g. approved or ineligible).

- Approved applicants plant finished trees (spring), or complete grafting (August), or plant bench grafts in the prior year.
- BCFGA Inspector contacts project applicant July-August to schedule and complete the project inspection.
- Ministry of Agriculture and BCFGA review each inspection and provide recommendations for payment. BCFGA delivers recommendation for payment to BC Ministry of Agriculture (alternatively, the BCFGA may make project payments from the Competitiveness Fund).
- BC Ministry of Agriculture forwards payment requisition to BC Ministry of Finance. (if not paid from the Competitiveness Fund).
- Payment cheque is generated.
- Ministry of Agriculture or BCFGA issues AGR-1 tax form.

d. PLANTING POLICIES

Applicants should review the following policies on the BCFGA website to ensure eligibility for their project:

1. Percentage Survival
2. Project Changes
3. Interplanting
4. Proof of Royalty Payment
5. Pollinators
6. Year of Eligibility
7. Fenceline Trees
8. Support Systems for Apples
9. Irrigation Systems
10. Plant Breeders' Rights Act

Tree Caliper

Minimum tree caliper must be attained by replanted and bench grafted trees prior to October 31 of the year planted (or the year following planting for bench grafted trees).

1. Less than 1500 trees per acre minimum 1/2 inch (13mm);
2. 1500 or more trees per acre minimum 7/16 inch (11mm).

Tree caliper is measured approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the bud union.

Planting Specifications

On apple trees, bud unions must be a minimum of 2 inches (5 cm) above ground.

Tree Fruit Variety

1. Only high value apple varieties are eligible:
 - a. Potential of at least \$.25 per pound for apples;
 - b. Variety must be horticulturally suited for your location and site.
2. Soft fruit varieties must have the potential of achieving high value for the crop grown.
3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the choice of variety is culturally suited to the location and operation. It is recommended that applicants complete a Replant Plan in consultation with their Horticultural Advisor or packinghouse field person;
4. Applicants should be aware that many new varieties require payment of plant patent royalties. Contact Summerland Varieties Corp for information on protected varieties.

A Tree Fruit Variety Strategy Report (March 2015) and a Soft Fruit Variety Strategy Report (April 2015) are available on the Ministry website (<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agriculture-business-and-economy/programs/treefruit-replant-program>).

e. **REPLANT INSPECTION PROCESS**

1. Inspection of replant projects occur between June-September of the year the finished trees are planted;
2. An Inspector will contact approved project applicants in June-September to arrange a project inspection.
3. During inspection, the inspector will undertake the following:
 - a. Measure average tree and row spacing;
 - b. Conduct a tree count by variety and block;
 - c. Ensure support system is complete and trees are tied (apples);
 - d. Ensure permanent irrigation is installed;
 - e. Measure nursery tree quality in terms of caliper and survival;
 - f. Assess site preparation and overall planting quality;
 - g. Assess weed and pest control.

f. **PROJECT PAYMENT**

Payment is made following the review and approval of the inspection report by the BCFG and Ministry. Payment amount may be subject to several Replant Program policies and rules, such as but not limited to

- a. Maximum tree density.
- b. Maximum acreage per applicant.
- c. Information provided in the application.

Ongoing performance data may be requested from the Replant year for the life of the Replant Program.

g. **APPEAL PROCESS**

An appeal committee will be available to review disputes. While program guidelines and policies are not subject to appeal, administrative decisions may be appealed

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

1. 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, notification is deemed to be 14 days after mail and 2 days after email or fax contact;
2. The issue being appealed must be clearly specified in the letter of appeal; and
3. The applicant agrees to accept the final decision.
4. A non-refundable appeal fee of \$300 will be paid by the Appellant to the Administrator (i.e. 50% of average appeal cost).

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

4. APPENDIX – TREE FRUIT GRAFTING AND BUDDING OVER REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

a. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Please see the main 2020 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements document. Requirements in the main document are the same as for grafting/budding except where noted in this Appendix.

b. FUNDING

\$1.50 per tree to a maximum of \$3,000 per acre is available for apple plantings. Soft fruit (including pear) plantings are eligible to a maximum of \$1,200 per acre.

c. INSPECTION

Inspections are normally conducted in July and August (of the same year as grafted) once scion growth has been established. August budded trees may be eligible in the year following.

d. PROJECT PAYMENT

Please see Section 4h of the 2020 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program Requirements.

e. GUIDELINE STANDARDS FOR REPLANT PLANS (GRAFTING AND BUDDING OVER)

Specifically, grafting or budding over requires the following:

1. Grafting must utilize dormant grafting wood and must be completed by full bloom time. Discussion with your horticultural advisor to ensure project success is highly recommended.
2. Successful grafting/budding requires specialized skills and growers should consider experienced grafting/budding contractors or take training to ensure success of the project. Grafting success with stone fruits is limited and should be only completed by persons with grafting experience.
3. Submission of variety plant patent royalties is required if applicable.