



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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News Release
For Immediate Release
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National Apple Competition Winners

Kelowna, BC – BC apples captured several of the top spots at this year's National Apple Competition yesterday at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) held in Toronto, Ontario. Highlights of this year's competition for BC apple growers are the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion of the New Varieties Category, for Ambrosia and Salish varieties.

"I congratulate the orchardists from across Canada who participated in the National Apple Competition," said Glen Lucas, General Manager, BC Fruit Growers' Association. "We express our special thanks to Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, who went above and beyond the call of duty to recover our lost delivery of apples, enabling BC to participate this year. The help that Ontario Apple Growers' Association provided shows the camaraderie and team approach that we have in the Canadian Apple Industry."

Steve Brown of Happy Valley Harvest, Summerland, received the Canadian Horticultural Council Trophy for Grand Champion of new varieties with his Ambrosia variety entry. Denise and Richard McDonald, of McDonald Farm, Summerland, was awarded Reserve Champion for the Salish entry in New Varieties.

BC placed top the Commercial categories of Red Delicious and Red Delicious, with BCFGA President Fred Steele's entry. David Bullach of Kelowna placed first in SPartan. Spartan is a variety bred and developed at the Summerland Research and Development Centre in 1936.

BC did especially well placing first in the New Varieties categories of Salish, Ambrosia, and Aurora Golden Gala, and in Other Named New Varieties for the Nicola variety. All the New Varieties BC placed first in were either discovered or bred in BC. "It was great to win first place for the Salish variety, but even more important that Ontario growers placed second and third for Salish - it proves that our national apple breeding program is making discoveries for all regions of the federation," said Glen Lucas.

Finally, the Summerland Research and Development Centre placed second in the novelty category "Most Unusual Shaped Apple".

The BCFGA is an agriculture association with a membership of 470 commercial tree fruit growers in BC. It celebrates its 130th anniversary in 2018.

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Official results:

<https://assistexpo.ca/results/2017-rawf/6/>

Competitor Information attached.

Further information:

Glen Lucas, General Manager, BCFGA
250-212-8828

National Apple Competition 2017, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Okanagan-Region Participant List and information

Rajan Bagha - placing 3rd Spartan and 6th Ambrosia

Rajan took over the management of this Coldstream property in 2011 from Jamie Kidston who remains the current owner.

Rajan represents the new generation of young farmers who, with their youth and enthusiasm will carry our industry into the future. He has entered his Ambrosia and Spartans into this year's competition.

David Bullach - placing 1st Spartan, 4th Golden Delicious, 7th Ambrosia

David is a 4th generation farmer, farming on the upper bench of E. Kelowna. He has owned the property for the past 39 years, in which time has done considerable replanting to newer varieties, producing fruit of excellent quality.

He has entered Spartan, Ambrosia, Golden Delicious and Red Delicious into this year's competition.

Fred Steele, Fairweather Farms, Kelowna - placing 1st Red Delicious, 5th McIntosh, and 6th Gala

Fred, the current President of the BCFGA, spent his formative years in the broadcasting industry, before switching to farming in 2003.

He has entered Red Delicious, Gala and McIntosh in this year's competition.

Denise and Richard McDonald, McDonald Farm, Summerland - placed Reserve Champion in new varieties for Salish, 1st for Aurora Golden Gala

The McDonalds take particular interest in new varieties through their past work at the Summerland Research and Development Centre.

McDonald's have entered Gala, Honeycrisp, Salish and Ambrosia in this year's competition.

Angie Ritz, A and F Ritz Farm, Kelowna - placed 2nd for Ambrosia, 2nd for Aurora Golden Gala and 1st for Other New Variety named (Nicola)

Angie is no stranger to the competition, having competed in several other years.

She has entered Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala and Nicola in this year's competition.

Steve Brown, Summerland - placed Grand Champion in new varieties for Ambrosia

Steve is a horticulturist and currently a director on the Board of BC Tree Fruit Cooperative.

He has entered Ambrosia in this year's competition.

Summerland Research and Development Centre, Summerland - placed second for most unusually-shaped apple

Summerland Research and Development Centre is a research farm for Agriculture and AgriFood Canada. While is not entering into the regular sections of the competition, it can participate in the novelty sections of the competition (heaviest apple and most-unusually-shaped apple).