

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



August 15, 2019

Light Reflecting Materials Program

Announcing - a new program administered by the New Tree Fruit Varieties Council

Light reflecting materials (essentially, white tarps) are used to enhance colour of apples and other fruit, by placing the tarp on the ground between rows of trees. This method improves grading and enhances quality when fruit is harvested at optimal ripeness rather than delaying harvest due to lack of colour and leading to potential over-ripeness.



Apple growers can, for the next four years (starting with 2019 purchases!), receive a grant towards the purchase of these materials. The grant is 25% up to \$10,000 per year. The application form and all of the program details are at nvdc.ca - make sure to read over *all* of the program "policies". The program is funded by the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund.

The program requires a field inspection of the materials and the 2019 program deadline to apply is November 30, 2019.

2020 Replant

Make an application between August 1 to November 30, 2019

[Replant applications are now available](#) on the BCFGA website.

Please note [Policy #10](#) regarding the purchase of varieties protected by Plant Breeders Rights (PBR). For growers intending to plant protected varieties, a Grower Agreement with Summerland Varieties Corp. (SVC) is required before replant payments can be processed. BCFGA encourages growers to contact SVC at 250-404-0088 to ensure they are meeting this requirement.

Growers are required to acquire plant material (budwood, scion wood or trees) of SVC-managed protected varieties from an Authorized Source. [SVC maintains a list of Authorized Sources on their website.](#)

BCFGA Summer Labour Project - 2019

Need workers? Contact Ron Forrest

Ron Forrest can let workers know of available work at your farm - call him to let him know when you need workers. Ron is available until the end of September.

Ron Forrest's number is 778-363-3620.

BCFGA Bursaries

Students - apply now!

[Two BCFGa bursaries](#) are available for students to apply. The [Golden Jubilee](#) and [Joe Sardinha Memorial Bursaries](#) provide up to \$1,000 to a student who is related to a BCFGa member.

The deadline for application is extended to October 31, 2019 as we did not receive any applications this Spring. The bursaries are expected to be awarded prior to November 15, 2019.

Applications are evaluated based on course relevance, marks, farm experience, work experience, participation of parents in industry organizations, or other criteria outlined in the particular award.

Minimum Wage and Piece Rate

Apple and Pear harvest rates

<i>Crop</i>	<i>2019 Piece rates</i>
<i>Apples</i>	<i>\$21.06 a bin (27.1 ft³ / 0.767 m³)</i>
<i>Pears</i>	<i>\$23.72 a bin (27.1 ft³ / 0.767 m³)</i>

Meetings and Events - check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Date	Meeting	Details
Sept 12-14	Columbia River Transboundary Conf.	Glen Lucas
October 3	BCAC Labour Committee	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct 16	World Food Day	
Oct 21	Federal Election	
Oct 22-23	Annual Review, Mexico SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, GLen Lucas
Oct 28-29	BCAC Agriculture Day	Pinder Dhaliwal, Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas
Nov 5	BCFGA Board meeting	
Nov 12-13	BCFGA Regional Annual Meetings	(dates tentative)
Nov 26-28	Annual Review, Caribbean SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas

SAWP Requirement

Do not forget to keep a signed contract on file at your farm!

Here are copies of the contracts - make sure they are signed by the employee and yourself:

- [Mexico](#)
- [Caribbean](#)

SAWP

Mexico Consulate contacts

<i>For arrivals, transfers, early return, contract extensions</i> Monica Perez - 604-684-1859 3060 sawpmobilityvan@sre.gov.mx	<i>For any issue related to housing and bullying and contracts</i> Karla Enriquez - ext. 3055 sawpwrightsvan@sre.gov.mx
<i>For any health related issue or Cowan Insurance</i> Sandra Martinez - 604-684-1859 ext. 3040 sawphealthvan@sre.gov.mx	<i>For any info regarding the payroll, deductions and taxes</i> Oscar Franco - 604-684-1859, ext. 3135 sawpcommunityvan@sre.gov.mx

SAWP

Caribbean contacts

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Contact	Phone	Email
Eastern Caribbean States *	Charmaine Williams	416-523-4662	charmaine.williams@oecs.int
Barbados	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997	swall-mayers@foreign.gov.bb
Jamaica	Donna Adams Kelowna Office	250-869-6288 250-762-4219	jamlowna@telus.net
Trinidad and Tobago		416-435-7048	

*Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service includes the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines

SAWP

Question of the week

My workers leave the housing a mess at the end of the season, what can I do?

It is within your rights to manage the cleanliness of the housing and make sure that workers leave the housing in as good a condition as when they arrived. Here are a few suggestions:


1. Always involve the Consulate or Liaison service - let them know what you are planning to do before you do it! See the contact list above.
2. Ensure the housing is in good condition before workers arrive and obtain proof of the condition by taking photos or getting your housing inspector to send you copies of their photos of the housing.
3. Post "[house rules](#)" which let workers know what is expected in keeping their housing clean. As part of worker orientation, review the house rules. Have the worker sign and date a copy of the house rules and keep it on file.
4. Throughout the work term, arrange to inspect and provide instruction on what needs to be done to keep the housing in good condition. The employer should fix any broken doors, windows, furnishings or appliances immediately - have an action plan indicating who is responsible to communicate broken items (e.g. a lead hand on the crew) and who is responsible for arranging the broken items to be fixed (e.g. the lead hand or the farm operator).

5. Optionally, many growers arrange a schedule for their workers to perform cleaning and maintenance of the housing, to ensure the work is shared fairly and there is no bullying about maintenance and cleaning.
6. A week or so before the end of the work term, inspect the housing and provide feedback on what needs to be done, and the consequences that could arise if the housing is not in the same condition as when the workers arrived (e.g. withholding cleaning costs from the last pay cheque).
7. A few days prior, inspect the housing and if not cleaned, contact the consulate-liaison service and let them know about the problem, offer to send photos by email, and let the consulate/liaison service know what you are doing to motivate the workers to clean up, and let the cosular-liaison service know the proposed amount to be withheld from the final paycheck if there is no improvement.
8. Around the time the workers are departing and receiving their last pay cheque, contact the consulate-liaison service if the housing is not cleaned and get authorization to deduct the amount for cleaning from the worker's last pay.
9. You will probably not have the same problem the following year!

Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund (TFC)

Apply any time

The TFC funding is provided by the Province of BC. Tree fruit growers and tree fruit organizations may make applications to the TFC for marketing, research and infrastructure planning purposes. Application intake is continuous. Information on the TFC is available at BCFGA.com, and call Glen Lucas at the BCFGGA to obtain assistance in preparing applications and follow-up assistance when projects are implemented.

 BCFGGA Office: 250-762-5226 Toll free: 1-800-619-9022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, Monday - Thursday, local 1. ● Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. ● Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, part-time, local 3. ● Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, part-time, local 4.
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Note: BCFGGA has a very small office with limited staff. With many activities undertaken on behalf of our 487 members, please call to make an appointment to be sure of staff being present to meet with you (staff are often away on business related to the BCFGGA). You may call your local director so that the BCFGGA Board can remain informed on how to best represent the tree fruit growers of BC.

BCFGGA Board of Directors

Name		Telephone
Bhupinder (Pinder) Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	Cell/text 250-488-0363
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
Karm Gill	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-9737
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	Cell/text 250- 859-1229
David Machial	Oliver	Cell/text 250-485-2636
David Dobernigg	Vernon	Cell/text 250-550-8999