

BC FRUIT GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION

1473 WATER STREET
KELOWNA, BC
V1Y 1J6

PHONE: 250-762-5226
1-800-619-9022
FAX: 250-861-9089

INFO@BCFGA.COM
WWW.BCFGGA.COM



VISIT US ON
FACEBOOK

IMPORTANT

2012 District Council Annual Meetings

Northern District

Tuesday, January 10th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Aspen Grove Golf Course
Lake Country, BC

Southern District

Thursday, January 12th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lakeside Resort
Penticton, BC

Lunch included.

For more information or
to register, please contact
Elaine Miedema at the
BCFGA office:
250-762-5226 ex 21 or
emiedema@bcfga.com

BCFGA Bulletin



November 2011

BC Apple Growers Get Royal Recognition at National Apple Competition



Again this year, BC apples were showcased and competed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in Toronto, Ontario; one of the largest of its kind in Canada.

On the first day of the RAWF, awards in the Royal National Apple Competition were announced, and BC growers proudly took home several awards.

Commercial Varieties

Class: Gala

- 1st Germaine, Robert Hogue – Roseridge Orchards
- 2nd Harry Shaw
- 3rd Chamkaur Gill

Class: Golden Delicious

- 1st Rick Machial – Fairview Orchards
- 2nd Jeff Marshall – Jeflor Orchards Ltd.
- 3rd Steve Brown – Happy Valley Harvest

Class: Spartan

- 2nd Jeff Marshall – Jeflor Orchards Ltd.
- 3rd Germaine, Robert Hogue – Roseridge Orchards

Class: Jonagold

- 1st Brian Machial

Class: Champion and Reserve

- 2nd Germaine, Robert Hogue – Roseridge Orchards (Gala)

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New Varieties

Class: Ambrosia

- 1st Jeff Marshall – Jeflor Orchards Ltd.
- 2nd Devin Jell – Gartrell Heritage Farms
- 3rd Harry Shaw

Class: Aurora Golden Gala

- 1st Devin Jell – Gartrell Heritage Farms
- 2nd Fred & Phyllis Nelson, Nelsons Fruit Works
- 3rd Kuen Hee Jung

Class: Other

- 1st Jeff Marshall – Jeflor Orchards Ltd. (Nicola)
- 2nd Dan Taylor (Nicola)
- 3rd Oskar Kempf (Nicola)

Class: Champion and Reserve

- 1st Jeff Marshall – Jeflor Orchards Ltd. (Ambrosia)

Best Collection of 5 Varieties

- 3rd Steve Brown – Happy Valley Harvest

“BC apples rank among the finest in the world”, proudly said Joe Sardinha, President of the BC Fruit Growers’ Association. “The quality of our fruit is a simple reflection of the quality of our labour, land and horticultural techniques.”

Growers from British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia entered some of their best apples to the competition by submitting them in five distinct categories: heritage, new and commercial varieties, as well as best collection of any five varieties, and heaviest apple. Apples were nicely displayed for the competition where they were judged according to several criteria by John Gardner, a retired apple specialist from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture.



“BC fruit growers take great pride in working hard all year to produce deliciously safe and nutritious apples consumers can enjoy each day”, reiterated Fred Steele, Vice-President of the association. “BC’s tree fruit industry is important in this province and needs to be showcased. The National Apple Competition is a great opportunity for us to do just that.”

“The quality of our fruit is a simple reflection of the quality of our labour, land and horticultural techniques.”

(Joe Sardinha, President of the BC Fruit Growers’ Association)



*Under the Terms of
the Bylaws of the Association*

Members are Directed to Take Notice of the
One Hundred and Twenty Third
Annual General Meeting
of the

British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

January 26 & 27, 2012

At the Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna, BC

Business Session - Financial statements, budget, industry organization reports, Environment and water, and project updates, will be held 1 -5pm, Thursday, January 26th, 2012 (with social from 6 – 8pm) at the Laurel Packinghouse), and

Policy Session - Labour, Financial Programs, Member Services and election of the Executive, will be held 8am to noon, Friday, January 27th, 2012

WATER: Achieving Balance & Sustainability

To Receive:

- The Annual Report of the Executive
- The Annual Report of the Auditor
- The Annual Reports of the Standing Committees
- The Reports of Special Committees
- The Annual Report of the Okanagan Plant Improvement Corporation

To Consider:

- Adoption of the association's budget
- Resolutions as submitted in accordance with the bylaws
- Any Special Resolutions submitted for amendment of the bylaws

And so the Members May Elect:

- The President and Vice-President of the BC Fruit Growers' Association
- The other Executive of the BC Fruit Growers' Association

BC Fruit Growers' Association office:
1473 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J6
250-762-5226 (T) (250) 861-9089 (F) www.bcfga.com

Safety on the Farm Update



Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association

“Safety Through Knowledge”

WORK SAFE BC

WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The requirements for handling pesticides in the workplace are complicated due to several federal, provincial and even municipal government statutes, regulations and by-laws. The major regulations are the Pesticide Control Act which requires pesticides to be registered with the Pest Management Agency, the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, administered by WorkSafeBC that provides provincial legislative protection to workers, and the Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulations which is administered provincially by the Ministry of Environment and covers certification, licensing and permit restrictions.

As an update to growers, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has recently re-evaluated several older pesticides and has made changes to their labels. Diazinon must now have a Pesticide Applicator Certificate to mix, load and apply. This change is also in effect for dimethoate (Cygon and Lagon) and endosulfan (Thiodan). The rodenticides will also see similar label changes. WorkSafeBC regulations already required a Pesticide Applicator Certificate for use of these pesticides as well as any other insecticides rated as moderately or highly toxic.

Other common pesticides requiring a PAC by WorkSafeBC include Sevin, Imidan and Gramoxone. Important sources of information regarding specific pesticides include the label, WorkSafeBC's Standard Practices for Pesticide Applicators, Material Safety Data Sheet and Production Guide. Labels are now being regularly reviewed by PMRA, it is important to read the label prior to use to ensure the right product is being used the right way on the right fruit.

According to the OHS&R those who mix, load or apply chemicals must have a Pesticide Applicators Certificate. The certificate is obtained by writing a test administered by the Ministry of Environment. You can prepare for the test by taking a course from an approved trainer or by using the Ministry of Environment study material. To write the test for a Pesticide Applicator Certificate, contact the Ministry of Environment at 1-866-205-2102. The agriculture applicator exam is currently open book and is available in the following languages English, Cantonese, Punjabi and Vietnamese.

Another important topic is the requirements for first aid certificates and kits. This varies with the number of workers working on shift, the level of risk of injury and travel time to a hospital. All workers on site must be counted to determine first aid requirements which would also include outside contractors. As an example, the requirement for 6 to 25 workers in a moderate risk industry such as orchards that is less than 20 minutes to a hospital is below.

Number of workers per shift	Supplies, equipment, and facility	Level of first aid certificate for attendant
2-5	Basic first aid kit	
6-25	Level 1 first aid kit	Level 1 certificate
26-75	Level 2 first aid kit Dressing station	* Level 2 certificate

Your FARSHA consultant can assist with a first aid assessment of your site(s).

Carol Reid is located in Kelowna and happy to assist with any safety inquiries. She can be reached at (250) 765-7025 or carol.reid@farsha.bc.ca

New Requirements for Roll Over Protection System

Due to the number of deaths and injuries from tractor roll-overs in recent years, WCB is implementing new requirements for Roll Over Protection System (ROPS).

All tractors will be required to be fitted with ROPS, unless:

- The tractor is older than 1985, or it is a low profile tractor used in low overhead clearance in an orchard, or implements are attached which are not compatible with ROPS, AND
- A risk assessment is completed by a qualified person and a notice is posted on the tractor that no ROPS is in place and the tractor is only to be used in areas authorized by the employer.

Implementation date is not clear at this time.

For more information, please contact:

Carol Reid

*Provincial Orchard and Vineyard Consultant
Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association
carol.reid@farsha.bc.ca*

Phone: 250-765-7025

cell: 250-215-5293

SIR Receives FortisBC Power Sense Conservation Award

The Sterile Insect Release Program (SIR) was recently awarded with the FortisBC Power Sense Conservation Award for its outstanding effort in Implementation of energy efficient upgrades at the SIR rearing facility. ***Congratulations!***

SIR Rates Held Steady for Third Year

The SIR Board approved a 0% increase on the 2012 municipal land tax and the farm parcel (apple acreage) tax at their November 9 meeting. This holds tax rates that support the program at 2010 levels, as there was no increase last year. The SIR Board thanked the staff for finding efficiencies in the program operation.



SIR General Manager Cara McCurrach, Chair Kevin Flynn, and Vice-Chair Allan Patton

BCFGA Meets With Premier and Key Minister During *Agriculture Day in Victoria*

On November 2, representatives from the member associations of the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) gathered in Victoria, BC for a special lobby day at the Legislature. BCFGGA President Joe Sardinha attended on behalf of our association.

The focus of the day was to not only highlight the significant employment and other economic contributions of BC agriculture, but to also point out that new investment is critical to drive growth, competitiveness and profitability in the sector. At present this investment is the lowest among Canadian provinces and BC has experienced negative net farming income for the past four years.

Representatives also met with MLA's and Ministers and staff of Agriculture, Labour, Health, Energy and Natural Resource Operations.

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High on the BCAC list of priorities for elected officials to consider were:

- 1) establishing a PST and GST rebate system for farmers that essentially provides the same benefit as the HST, which will be phased out,
- 2) elimination of the carbon tax, as it creates an additional burden for farmers, and
- 3) to consider the impact of rapidly rising employment wage rates (minimum wage) on agriculture, and in particular piece rates if they are to increase in tandem.

Another key theme of the day was that the Agriculture Ministry is seriously underfunded and is therefore ill-equipped to tackle the many issues facing BC agriculture. Throughout this lobbying day, BCAC participants conveyed the following messages; ***strong support for continuation of the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program, increased funding for secondary school culinary programs that focus on healthy food, funding for a local food campaign such as "Buy BC" , increased collaboration among Ministries that will generate more resources since agriculture is multi-faceted, more investment in on-farm renewable energy projects and less red tape for ranchers operating on crown land.*** Another lobbying opportunity may be planned for the spring of 2012.

BC Tree Fruit, Potato and Vegetable Sectors Meet with Minister of Agriculture on Columbia River Treaty

This past October, representatives of the BC tree fruit, potato and vegetable sectors met with BC Agriculture Minister, the Hon. Don McRae, to discuss the negative impact that the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) has on the BC vegetable, potato and tree fruit sectors.

During this meeting, requests were put before the minister's attention for consideration:

- The appointment of a senior BC Ministry of Agriculture staff member to the established BC Ministry of Energy and Mines Task Force to represent the industry in the CRT renewal process;
- The establishment of a consultation process involving representatives from the affected sectors and BC Ministry of Agriculture staff members; and
- The availability of funds to permit research to be undertaken to better respond to the challenges facing the tree fruit, potato and vegetable sectors.

Representatives of the BCFGA, BC Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, and BC Vegetable Marketing Commission appreciated meeting the Minister to discuss this issue facing our industries, and hope to continue working with him and the provincial government on finding solutions.

**BC FRUIT GROWERS'
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KELOWNA, BC
V1Y 1J6**

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents the 758 commercial orchards in BC, with a mandate "to foster a business environment for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers". The BC tree fruit industry generates over \$130 million in fresh fruit sales annually at the wholesale level, with a further \$120 million in sales from Sun-Rype, the main processor of fruit in the Okanagan

BCFGA Executive

NAME	TELEPHONE	LOCATION
Joe Sardinha (President)	494-9983	Summerland
Fred Steele (Vice-President)	861-6641	Kelowna
Madeleine Van Roehoudt	864-9147	Lake Country
Amarjit Lalli	869-6122	Kelowna
Sukhdev Goraya	491-2229	Kelowna
Denise MacDonald	494-1347	Summerland
Peter Simonsen	496-5156	Naramata
Nirmal Dhaliwal	498-4119	Oliver

STAFF

Kelowna Office 250-762-5226 or 1-800-619-9022

Glen Lucas (General Manager)

local 23
212-8828 (cell)
glucas@bcfga.com

Elaine Miedema (Member Services)

local 21
emiedema@bcfga.com

Josée Larocque (Public Relations/Events)

local 24
jlarocque@bcfga.com

Sheila MacGregor (Accounting)

local 22
smacgregor@bcfga.com

Ron Forrest, BCFGAs Labour Facilitator, will be returning next summer.