

Operational Replant Policy #1 - Percentage Survival

Endorsed by Program Administration: May 19, 2015, amended August 25, 2015

Trees are inspected several months after planting to verify spacing, tree numbers, and tree growth, and tree survival.

1. Projects with greater than 90% tree survival will be paid out at 100% of the inspected amount (with subsequent any adjustments due to density maximums, acreage maximums, and other requirements).
2. Projects with 50 to 90% survival will be paid at the tree survival rate (i.e. prorated 50 to 90%) for the project, and it will be clarified that the replacement trees are not eligible for replant in subsequent years.
3. Projects with less than 50% tree survival will not be paid, and it will be clarified that the grower will be eligible to reapply only if the surviving trees are removed and the entire block is replanted with new tree stock in the subsequent year.

Operational Replant Policy #2 - Project Changes

Endorsed by program administration: February 15, 2016

Allowable changes to project plans made after the program deadline for submission of applications are only allowed as follows.

Replant Project changes

1. A project will remain eligible if there is a reduction in the area planted, with spacing, variety and other factors remaining the same as the replant plan,
2. The location of inspected replant blocks must be the same as the location shown on the application, unless the advisor and the program administrator provide written approval for a change in location, and the approvals are completed prior to planting.
3. A project will remain eligible if there is an increase in density of planting; however, the funding available for the project will be limited to the spacing in the original application,
4. A project will remain eligible if there is a change of clear and generally accepted improvement to the replant plan. However, to avoid uncertainty, a policy is established that the only approved changes in a replant plan are as follows:
 - a. Changing from benchgrafts to commercial nursery trees in the year of grant eligibility¹.
 - b. Changing to the Ambrosia apple variety from another apple variety².
 - c. Changing cherry, pear, or other soft fruit varieties, due to the generally interchangeable nature of these varieties³.

¹ "Whips or trees with short feathers are preferred", according to BC Tree Fruits Cooperative and Summerland Varieties Corporation in Steps to Success in Replanting, 2015

² Ambrosia is a clearly superior product in terms of quality of production and medium-term market outlook. "B.C. is looked upon as having superior quality Ambrosia apples [by produce buyers]", (page 30) and also "BCTFC and the main Canadian retailers concur that demand is greater than supply in Canada. It is a grower-friendly variety," (page 35) as reported by Globalwise and Belrose Inc in Assessment of B.C. Apple & Sweet Cherry Varieties, 2015.

³ "The variety of sweet cherries is rarely displayed in retail stores, especially the mass market food chains in Canada and the U.S., but variety still plays a key role in successful marketing programs. This is because brand marketing and quality reputation is a direct result of variety along with handling and storage. Cherry marketers also report that export buyers are quite knowledgeable about varieties and this clearly enters their decision making in selecting suppliers," (page 32) as reported by Globalwise and Belrose Inc in Assessment of B.C. Apple & Sweet Cherry Varieties, 2015

Operational Replant Policy #3 - Interplanting

Endorsed by program administration; March 1, 2016

Interplanting is considered to be any mixture of trees in a block that are planted in different years. Interplanted trees are not eligible, in general. An exception is for a failed replant application in which over 50% of trees are replaced, then the replacement trees are eligible. The following examples are interplant scenarios that would be considered eligible for replacement tree (interplant) payment within the program:

Example 1

An acre of Gala is planted in 2016. The planting has low tree survival (50 - 90%) and replacement trees are planted in 2017. If the grower applied in 2016, then the planting would be inspected and paid a pro-rated rate per policy. However, the grower did not apply in 2016 and is applying for 2017. The project is interplanted and not eligible.

Example 2

An Acre of Ambrosia is planted in 2015. The grower applied for 2015, but deer damage resulted in <50% tree survival and the project is ineligible. The grower applied to the program and replaced the dead trees in 2016. In this case, the project is eligible, but only the replacement trees are paid under the 2016 Replant program.

Operational Replant Policy #4 - Proof of Royalty Payment

Endorsed by program administration; March 1, 2016

Proof of payment of royalties is required. Delays in providing proof of payment of royalties delays payment to eligible growers and puts projects not currently funded at risk of not being funded by the fiscal year end. Therefore, the following communication and response policy is established:

1. After inspection, any proof of royalties required will be confirmed in a letter sent by the BCFGGA to the grower.
2. If the grower does not respond, within a week of mailing, the program will attempt 2 phone calls and 1 email (if available) to request confirmation of royalty payment within 3 weeks of the mailing.
3. At the end of three weeks, a registered letter will be delivered to the grower, setting a deadline of three weeks from mailing date for proof of royalty payment.

If proof of royalty payment is not made by the deadline, the grower will be delivered a second registered letter of denial for the project, due to lack of response on royalty payment.

The denial only applies to the replant blocks that require royalties. At the deadline, then, a payment recommendation will be made for the remaining, non-royalty blocks in the application.

Operational Replant Policy #5 - Pollinators

Endorsed by program administration; March 1, 2016

The use of trees (pollinators) to pollinate self-sterile trees in the treefruit industry is seen as normal and a good horticultural practice generally. Because of this, the replant program encourages, through payment and horticultural advice, the use of pollinators to improve crop load, development and ultimately, delivery. The examples below describe eligible and ineligible payments for the use of pollinators in replant blocks:

Eligible for the replant program:

- pollinators that are individual trees of a different variety in a row.
- complete rows of pollinators within a block that is predominantly the variety which is in the application.

Not eligible for the replant program:

- adjacent blocks of pollinators, unless qualifying as a separate planted block (i.e. must be part of a block of the same variety over 1 acre).

Note: for a replant block, an adjacent block may be eligible on the replant application, and these adjacent blocks deemed by the grower to be pollinators. However, the Replant review Committee considers adjacent blocks to be inferior and a lower grade will result, placing the project application at greater risk of being denied funding.

Operational Replant Policy #6 - Year of Eligibility

Endorsed by program administration; September 1, 2017

Eligible for the replant program:

- Trees no older than their second full season of growth of the scion.

Not eligible for the replant program:

- Trees that are in their third full season of growth of the scion.

Examples:

- A rootstock is chip-budded in a nursery in August 2016. The first full season of growth is 2017, but the tree is unlikely to make the minimum caliper requirement in the first year. The grower should apply for the 2018 program, the second full season of growth of the scion.
- A grower makes benchgrafts in the spring of 2017 by grafting on the scion (usually a stick composed of 3 buds) to a rootstock. The first full season of growth is 2017 and the growers will apply for the 2018 program. Achieving adequate tree growth in the first and second seasons for benchgrafts is a horticultural challenge. Benchgrafts receive a lower grade when being rated, since nursery-grown trees are considered stronger and provide a better finished tree.
- A grower plants rootstocks in place (at their eventual spacing of 10 x 2 feet) in 2015, then places a chip bud in the rootstock in August 2016. The first full season of growth is 2017, but the tree is unlikely to make the minimum caliper requirement in the first year. The grower should apply for the 2018 program, the second full season of growth of the scion.
- A grower orders trees from a nursery for delivery to the farm in 2018. The grower applies for the 2018 program.

In all of the examples, the grower should make an application to the 2018 Replant Program. Since the deadline for applications is usually in the Fall prior to the program, the grower should apply prior to the program deadline of in the Fall of 2017, for the above examples.