



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

1473 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J6
Ph: (250) 762 – 5226 • Fax (250) 861 – 9089
E-mail • info@bcfga.com

For immediate release

BC APPLE GROWERS' SCARE AWAY COMPETITION

November 1, 2013 (Toronto, Ontario) – BC apples captured 9 of the top 40 places in the new variety section at the Halloween edition of the National Apple Competition, held every year at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in Toronto, Ontario. The judging of the apples takes place the day prior to opening and results are officially announced today, the first day of the agriculture fair, held in the heart of the largest urban centre in Canada.

“The quality of the apples was excellent from all provinces this year. The growers who entered the competition made the judges job difficult this year, and BC growers held their own in the competition,” said Glen Lucas, General Manager of the BC Fruit Growers' Association.

Commercial Varieties

Class: Gala

2nd

Steve Brown, Happy Valley Harvest, Summerland, BC

Class: McIntosh

2nd

Billy and Shawna Boerboom, Windmill Orchards, Summerland, BC

Class: Golden Delicious

1st

Billy and Shawna Boerboom, Windmill Orchards, Summerland, BC

2nd

Greg Sanderson, Cawston, BC

New Varieties*Class: Ambrosia*1st

Devin and Janine Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland, BC

2nd

Billy and Shawna Boerboom, Windmill Orchards, Summerland, BC

3rd

Nirmal Dhaliwal, Oliver, BC

...2/

*Class: Aurora Golden Gala*1st

Devin and Janine Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland, BC

2nd

Jack Machial, Machial Enterprises, Oliver, BC

3rd

Lane and Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland, BC

...2/

*Class: Other New Varieties*1st , for Salish

Tom Kinvig, Summerland, BC

2nd , for Early Fuji

Jack Machial, Machial Enterprises, Oliver, BC

3rd , for Nicola

Jeff and Lori Marshall, Ringo-en Orchards, Winfield, BC

Best Collection of 5 Varieties2nd

Devin and Janine Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland, BC

3rd

Billy and Shawna Boerboom, Windmill Orchards, Summerland, BC

Growers from British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec entered their best apples in 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/most unusual shaped apple. Winning apples are on displayed at the fair after being judged.

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents 550 commercial tree fruit growers in BC, with a mandate "to foster a business environment for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers".

For more information:

The official results:

www.royalfair.org/sites/default/files/Apples%20Results%20Combined.pdf#overlay-context=node/221

Glen Lucas

General Manager

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Telephone: (250) 762-5226 ext. 23

Cell (250) 212-8828

BACKGROUNDER

Grower Biographies

Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn/Windmill Orchards, Summerland

(1st Golden Delicious, 2nd McIntosh, 2nd Ambrosia and 3rd collection of 5 varieties)

The Boerbooms grow tree fruit in Summerland, BC with his own packing-house and on-site retail outlet. He has been farming his orchard for 16 years after taking over from his father who had farmed the same site for 33 years after moving from Holland to Canada. Billy grows primarily apple varieties including Spartans, Royal Gala, Honeycrisp, Elstar, Golden-Delicious, Granny-Smith, Ambrosia, Fuji, Empire, Salish, and Silken. He also grows some pears and cherries.

Steve Brown, Summerland

(2nd Gala)

Steve Brown is a grower in Summerland, BC and is also a horticultural field-service representative for the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative packing-house. Steve is originally from North Vancouver and started growing in Summerland in 2001 on his high-density 15 acre orchard. Main apple varieties on the farm include Royal Gala, Ambrosia, Smoothie-Golden, Fuji, and Pink-Lady. Steve also grows a small block of different cherry varieties.

Nirmal Dhaliwal, Oliver

(3rd Ambrosia)

Nirmal Dhaliwal owns and operates 17 acres of orchard in Oliver, BC and 29 acres in Kelowna. He grows Gala, Ambrosia, Spartans, and some Golden-Delicious. He also grows cherries and Italian prunes. In addition to farming, he is President of the Okanagan Plant Improvement Corp, Vice-President of BC Tree Fruit Cooperative, and serves on the Executive of the BC Fruit Growers' Association.

Jeff and Lori Marshall, Ringo-en Orchards, Winfield

(3rd Nicola)

Jeff and Lori Marshall of Jeflor Orchards Ltd. are growers in Winfield, BC who have been farming their orchard since 1988. Their family has been growing in the Kelowna area for over 100 years and they primarily grow the apple varieties Aurora Golden Gala, Royal Gala, Spartan, Ambrosia, and Nicola.

Jack Machial, Oliver

(2nd Aurora Golden Gala, 2nd Early Fuji)

Jack Machial is a grower in Oliver, BC whose family originally moved from Portugal to the South Okanagan in 1974. He grows primarily apple varieties including Royal Gala, Ambrosia, Fuji, Golden Delicious, Sunrise, and Honeycrisp.

Lane and Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland

(3rd Aurora Golden Gala)

Ryan Mitchell of Mitchell Family Orchards has been farming for 3 years on his 10 acre plot in Summerland, BC. He grows the apple varieties Aurora Golden Gala, Ambrosia, Spartans, and Granny-Smith. Ryan and his family also grow several cherry varieties on their farm.

Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland

(1st Ambrosia, 1st Aurora Golden Gala, 2nd collection of 5 varieties)

Sun-Oka Fruit Farms is a fifth generation family farm located in Summerland, BC. Devin and Janine Jell manage 27 acres of high density apple orchards, mostly planted with newer varieties such as Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala, Honeycrisp, Pink Lady and Royal Gala.

The family farm celebrated its 125th anniversary last year. The farm was first homesteaded and planted by Janine's great-great-grandfather, James Gartrell in 1887. It was one of the very first commercial orchards established in BC's Okanagan Valley.

Tom Kinvig

(1st Salish)

Tom Kinvig is a grower in Summerland, BC where he farms 20 acres of orchard. Tom has been growing in Summerland since 1975. Tom is also a part owner of Summerland Heritage Cider Company and grows several types of cider-apples.