



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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For immediate release

BC APPLE GROWERS' PICK OF THE CROP AT NATIONAL APPLE COMPETITION

November 2, 2012 (Toronto, Ontario) – BC apples captured the top spots – Grand Champion and Reserve Champion - in all three categories at this year's National Apple Competition 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 the first day of the agriculture fair, held in the heart of the largest urban centre in Canada.

RAWF celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

Commercial Varieties

Class: Gala

- 1st Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland **
- 2nd Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland
- 3rd Shivinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver

Class: Spartan

- 2nd Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland

Class: Golden Delicious

- 1st Shivinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver
- 2nd Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland

Class: Jonagold

- 3rd Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard

Class: Red Delicious

- 1st Shivinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver, BC
- 2nd Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard

Class: Champion and Reserve

- * Grand Champion Shivinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver (Red Delicious)
- ** Reserve Champion Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland (Gala)

Heritage Varieties*Class: Other*

- 1st Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard
(for Winsap) *
- 2nd Lane and Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland
(for Granny Smith) **
- 3rd Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland
(for Granny Smith)

Class: Champion and Reserve

- * Grand Champion Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard
(for Winsap)
- ** Reserve Champion Lane & Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland
(for Granny Smith)

New Varieties*Class: Ambrosia*

- 1st Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland
- 2nd Gord Shandler, Summerland
- 3rd Angie Ritz, Kelowna

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Class: Aurora Golden Gala

- 1st Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland *
- 2nd Angie Ritz, Kelowna
- 3rd Frank Fenwick, Fenwick Farms, Cawston

Class: Honeycrisp

- 1st Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland **

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Class: Other

- 1st Narinder and Surinder Gosal, Kelowna (Nicola)
- 2nd Gord Shandler, Summerland (Salish)
- 3rd Gurinder Saran, Kelowna (Nicola)

Class: Champion and Reserve

- 1st Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland, BC (for Aurora)
- 2nd Billy and Shauna Boerboom, The Apple Barn, Summerland
(for Honeycrisp)

Best Collection of 5 Varieties

- 1st Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland
- 2nd Lane & Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland
- 3rd Shivinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver

Growers from British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec 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/most unusual shaped apple. Winning apples are on displayed at the fair after being judged by John Gardner, a retired apple specialist from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture.

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents 608 commercial growers in BC, with a mandate "to foster a business environment for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers".

-30-

For more information:

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BACKGROUND

Grower Biographies

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

(entered Gala, Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp, Spartan, Granny Smith and a collection of 5 varieties)

Windmill Orchards is located in Summerland, B.C. Billy has been farming for 25 years and they also operate the Windmill Garden Centre and The Apple Barn, where they sell their produce. They farm on 13 acres and they grow 16 varieties of apples, along with cherries and pears.

Frank Fenwick, Summerland

(entered Aurora Golden Gala, Ambrosia and Spartan)

Fenwick Farms is a 13 acre farm located in Summerland, B.C. Frank and Louise currently grow Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala, and Spartan. "This farm is a third generation farm started by my grandfather, who come over from Scotland in approximately 1905. My father and his sister continued farming until Louise and I took over the operation 38 years ago. Over this period of time the farm has had a variety of crops and livestock including hay, various soft fruits, chickens, cattle and horses."

Amanpreet and Shavinder Gill, Gill Farm, Oliver

(entered Gala, Spartan, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and a collection of 5 varieties)

Gill Farm is located in Oliver, B.C. Shivinder has been farming for over 11 years and has a total of 22 acres, of which 12 acres are their own and 10 acres which are leased. They grow cherries, peaches and apples. In apples they grow Gala, Ambrosia, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Spartan, McIntosh and Red Delicious.

Narinder and Surinder Gosal, Kelowna

(entered Nicola)

The farm is located in Kelowna, B.C. They farm on 12 acres and have been farming for over 23 years.

Devin Jell, Sun-Oka Fruit Farms, Summerland

(entered Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala, Honeycrisp, Gala and 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.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the family's orchard operation which 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.

Jell observed, "Orchard practices have changed a lot in 125 years, but our family still takes great pride in working the land and producing fruit of excellent quality."

Richard and Denise MacDonald, MacDonald Farms, Summerland

(entered Aurora Golden Gala, Ambrosia and Salish)

MacDonald Farms is located in Summerland, B.C. Richard and Denise have 22 acres; currently 9-10 acres are in apple production. They grow Jonagold, Spartan, Aurora, Fuji, Gala and Nicola; plus a few trees of newer or unusual varieties. Richard received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from UBC and then ended up in the tree fruit industry in the Okanagan where he has been farming for 30 years.

Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard

(entered Red Delicious, Jonagold, Crispin /Mutsu, Spartan, and Winesap)

The orchard is located in Cawston and is organic based on Biodynamic principles.

Lane and Ryan Mitchell, Mitchell Family Orchard, Summerland

(entered Gala, Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala, Spartan, Granny Smith and a collection of 5 varieties)

Mitchell Family Orchard is a 9 acre farm located in Summerland, B.C. They grow Gala, Ambrosia, Granny Smith, Spartan, Aurora Golden Gala and a few peaches, plums and nectarines and have been farming for only 2 years. "My son and his family along with my wife and I bought all bought this orchard together, it is a retirement project for my wife and I, and a future investment / way of life for my son and his family when he retires from the RCMP. It is a very steep learning curve for me as I have never farmed before but it is very satisfying work."

Angie Ritz, Kelowna

(entered Ambrosia and Aurora Golden Gala)

Frank and Angie are 2nd and 3rd generation farmers. Their farm is just under 10 acres and is in what Angie calls "under construction". At the moment less than half is planted as they are trying to decide what to do next. They grow Ambrosia, Aurora Golden Gala, and Golden Delicious with a few McIntosh, Honeycrisp and Spartans to make it interesting.

Gurinder Saran, Kelowna

(entered Nicola)

Gurinder's farm is located in Kelowna, B.C. It consists of 13.5 acres planted in apples. He has been farming for 7 years.

Gord Shandler, Summerland

(entered Gala, Salish (SPA 493) and Ambrosia)

Gord grew up on an orchard and then went to college a couple of times (Forestry, Environmental Quality Control). He has been farming for 34 years and is very active in promoting new varieties. He has six acres in super spindle, with 2500 - 3000 trees/acre, and currently grows Salish, Ambrosia, Gala.

Jill, Martin, and Jonathan Rothe, JMJ Biodynamic Orchard

(entered Red Delicious, Jonagold, ⁷ Crispin /Mutsu, Spartan, and Winesap)

The orchard is located in Cawston and is organic based on Biodynamic principles.