



**CANADAGAP<sup>®</sup>**

# 2022 Annual Report

**CanadaGAP Program**

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## Annual Report 2022

### Program Overview

CanadaGAP<sup>®</sup> is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store, wholesale and broker fruits and vegetables. The program is now in its fifteenth year of operation as a certification program, with over 3,000 participating companies from across the Canadian and U.S. fresh produce industry.

CanadaGAP is designed to help implement effective food safety procedures within fresh produce operations. Audit and certification services for the program are delivered by third party, accredited Certification Bodies. Since 2010, the program has been benchmarked and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for certification options B, C and D. It is also fully recognized by the Canadian Government and has been benchmarked to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* to ensure 100% alignment with Canadian regulatory requirements for food safety.

Two manuals, one specific to greenhouses, the second for other fruit and vegetable operations, have been developed by the horticultural industry and reviewed for technical soundness by Canadian government officials. The manuals are designed for companies implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and maintaining an effective food safety program. The manuals are based on a rigorous hazard analysis applying the seven principles of the internationally-recognized HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) approach. Program materials are available for free on the CanadaGAP website at: [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)

More than three thousand produce suppliers are currently CanadaGAP-certified. The program enjoys strong support from Canada's retail, processing and food service sectors, as well as international recognition across the range of export markets in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Asia. Working together, a dedicated team of staff members, Board of Directors, stakeholders and program participants contribute to strengthening food safety implementation across the horticultural sector.



## Highlights from 2022

2022 has been a very active year for CanadaGAP. Several new projects were undertaken at the same time as the world began to emerge from the worst days of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and business started returning to a 'new normal'.

**New Certification Options E and F:** The most important development for CanadaGAP in 2022 was the introduction of two new non-GFSI-recognized certification options for CanadaGAP program participants whose buyers may not require full compliance with GFSI. The new options, E and F, are very closely modeled on the GFSI-recognized options (C and D), with two important differences:

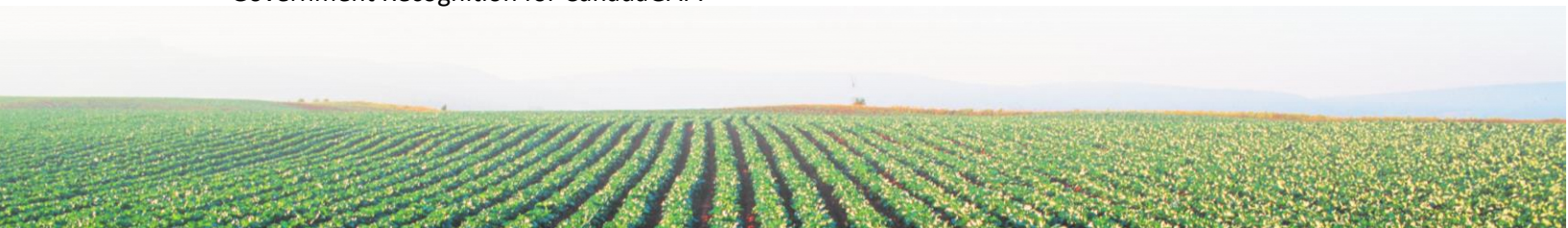
- Companies chosen for unannounced audits receive 2-5 business days' notice before the auditor's arrival (versus no advance notice for GFSI-recognized options)
- The passing score on the audit is 95% (versus 100% compliance required for GFSI-recognized options).

In all other respects, including all food safety elements in the standard as well as requirements relating to food safety culture, food fraud, food defense, environmental monitoring, etc. the new certification options are identical to GFSI-recognized certification. To date more than 60 companies are enrolled in the new certification options.

### Other Key Activities

Other important initiatives for CanadaGAP in 2022 included:

- In partnership with the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC), CanadaGAP began work on an AAFC-funded project to expand the scope of the Greenhouse Food Safety program. It is expected by April 1, 2023 that producers of many more greenhouse-grown crops will be able to seek certification under the CanadaGAP program – such as companies producing and packing melons, berries, various root vegetables, cruciferous crops and legumes in a controlled environment.
- CanadaGAP worked closely with an affiliate of the program, Provision Analytics, which is a third-party software provider that invested in fully digitizing the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals. Program users who wish to maintain their program electronically can subscribe to the Provision platform to access a complete interactive copy of the CanadaGAP manuals as well as all record-keeping template forms. See the "Food Safety Links" page on the CanadaGAP website for further details about Provision Analytics.
- A new Certification Body, Control Union, was approved and licensed to begin offering CanadaGAP audits and certification in 2022. More information about services offered by Control Union is available on the 'Certification Bodies' page of the CanadaGAP website ([www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)).
- The program successfully concluded a 40-month review by CFIA and provincial partners to maintain Government Recognition for CanadaGAP.



- A new annual award was announced by CanadaGAP to recognize a CanadaGAP auditor who has shown extraordinary heart, dedication and commitment to their role. The Sheri Nielson Auditor Recognition Award was established in honour of a longtime CanadaGAP auditor and much-loved member of the agricultural community, Sheri Nielson, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. The recipient will be announced on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting.

## GFSI Benchmarking

2022 brought continuing challenges for operations maintaining compliance with requirements for GFSI-recognized certification options (B, C and D). New rules introduced by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for companies certified for “Production and Packing” under CanadaGAP Options B and C meant that starting April 1, 2022 those operations must have audits each year for both harvesting and packing activities. For some certified operations, depending on the timing of their activities, that means undergoing two audits per year. Further detailed information about the changes made to 2022 requirements is available on the CanadaGAP website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)

## Program Participant Achievements

Despite increasingly stringent food safety requirements and many other challenges facing the industry in recent years, the average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants continues to improve. For the one-year period ending August 31, 2022 **the average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants was 95.70%** – an outstanding achievement by certified companies. Based on preliminary audit results (before corrective actions were implemented), the overall average of 95.70% was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options. Even higher audit scores were seen among Option C program participants, with those scores averaging 96.55% – another significant accomplishment.

Average audit scores in the past year were higher across all commodity groups covered by the CanadaGAP program, including Tree and Vine Fruit, Potatoes, Greenhouse, Field Vegetables, and Small Fruit. Repacking and Wholesaling (Option D) audit scores also trended higher in 2022, averaging 94.59%. Those results demonstrate a highly commendable effort on the part of fresh produce suppliers and a clear commitment to achieving and maintaining a robust food safety program within their businesses.



## Report from the Board

### Annual General Meeting

CanAgPlus, the not-for-profit corporation that owns and operates the CanadaGAP program, holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for members each year in late November or early December. Due to the continuing pandemic, the 2021 AGM was again held virtually on November 29, 2021.

The 2022 AGM will again be held online and is scheduled for December 1, 2022 at 1:00 PM Eastern time. Further details are posted on the CanadaGAP website at [www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/](http://www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/).

## Board of Directors

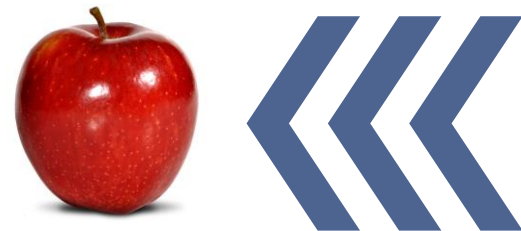
The Board of Directors meets face-to-face twice annually, under normal circumstances, and holds regular conference calls. Meetings have been held virtually since March 2020.

The Board is comprised of eight volunteer directors who serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. The Board welcomed one new and three returning directors at the 2021 AGM. Denis Desjardins (Desjardins Seed Farm Ltd. in New Brunswick) was newly elected to the Board. Returning directors who were re-elected for another two-year term included Stephanie Lariviere (Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers/Erie James Ltd.), Ian McDonell (Snow Road Solutions), and Beth Pattillo (Noggins Corner Farm II Ltd.). Following the AGM, Stephanie Lariviere was elected Chair of the Board for a fourth term, and Scott Wright (University of Saskatchewan) was elected Vice-chair for 2022. Four director positions are available to aspiring candidates at the 2022 AGM. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/>. The candidate list for the 2022 election of directors is published at <https://www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/>

## Management Review

The annual management review of the program was held with senior management and representatives on September 28, 2022. During the management review, directors and staff consider the following elements of program performance and opportunities for improvement:

- requests for modifications to the program
- performance of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies
- complaints and their handling
- internal audit results
- auditor training undertaken and its outcomes
- resource needs
- policies related to conflict of interest and confidentiality, among others.



Recommendations arising from the management review are presented to the full Board of Directors for further discussion and action.

## Technical Advisory Committee

CanadaGAP receives many requests each year from program users to revise the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals, generic HACCP models, and audit checklist. The CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprises a group of qualified experts who are instrumental to providing recommendations on proposed changes to the technical standard. Requests are first considered and researched by staff, and information is presented to the committee for discussion and expert input.

Nominations to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are accepted annually, and appointments are made by the Board for one- or two-year terms. While the Board makes efforts to appoint members who are representative of the various crop groupings within CanadaGAP's scope, the primary criteria for members is food safety knowledge, education and technical expertise, given the committee's role. Consideration is also given to representatives with expertise in various types of production, storage, packing, repacking and wholesaling, as well as other relevant expertise (e.g., industry experience). The size



of the Committee is set at a maximum of nine members, along with a chair drawn from the Board of Directors, to maximize the efficiency and productivity of meetings. Board member Beth Pattillo was reappointed to chair the TAC for a second year in 2022. All members generously volunteer their time to the work of the committee.

The committee meets every summer to consider the requests for program modifications. The 2022 meeting was held remotely in July, with a pre-meeting call taking place in June to review all agenda items and ask any questions in advance of the full day meeting. Earlier this year, the TAC also held an extra meeting to consider a number of special requests, which resulted in changes to several requirements in the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals. The modifications were published by CanadaGAP in a correction notice in February 2022.

Candidates interested in serving on the TAC are encouraged to apply through the public nominations process each fall. The list of current TAC members is published on the CanadaGAP website.

CanadaGAP wishes to remind all stakeholders that the program has an open-door policy to receive feedback, suggestions for improvement, and requests for modifications to program requirements from all parties at any time. Contact information for the CanadaGAP office is available at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)



## Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP is involved in a significant number of education and outreach activities. While opportunities to represent the program outside of virtual meetings have been limited by the pandemic over the last two years, CanadaGAP was able to continue to engage remotely in a number of important ongoing initiatives. The table on the following pages provides a summary of these activities.

A highlight from 2022 was a series of Town Halls presented by CanadaGAP to members and other stakeholders. Over 200 participants attended one of four sessions between February and March 2022. Three Town Halls were held in English, and a fourth session was held in French in conjunction with the annual MAPAQ-hosted 'Journées horticoles' Food Safety session. More information about the Town Halls is posted on the CanadaGAP website at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/publications/presentations/> under the heading CanadaGAP Changes to Certification Program 2022, including a 'What We Heard' summary. CanadaGAP sincerely thanks all Town Hall participants who took the time to attend and share their thoughts and questions.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Event / Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
January	Consultation with Certification Bodies re: Unannounced Audits and other 2022 Changes	Zoom
January	CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee meeting	Zoom
January	Interview for Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program review	Conference call
January	Review of ISO 22003-2 and submission of comments by CanadaGAP	Online
January to December	Monthly call of GFSI-recognized Certification Programme Owners	Microsoft Teams
January, March, June, Sept, November	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Board Meetings	Zoom calls
January to March	Meetings with BCMAFF (BC Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) re: flooding risk assessment	Conference calls
January to March	CFIA Review for 40-month Maintenance of Government Recognition	Zoom calls
January to March	Calls with GFSI regarding Certification Database Project	Zoom
January and February	National Critical Infrastructure Cross-Sector Forum	Microsoft Teams
February	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention – Food Safety session convened by OMAFRA (CanadaGAP presentations on Unannounced Audits and EMPs)	Zoom
February	Les Journées horticoles hosted by MAPAQ (CanadaGAP presentation during Food Safety session)	Microsoft Teams
February	CanadaGAP Webinar for Certification Bodies on Version 9.2 (2022) Management Manual revisions	Microsoft Teams
February and March	CanadaGAP Town Halls (3 English sessions)	Zoom
March	CanadaGAP webinar on food safety risk and response to flooding in BC – hosted by BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA)	Webinar
March	CHC AGM and Food Safety Committee meeting (CanadaGAP presentation on certification options)	Zoom
March	CPMA Annual General Meeting	Webinar
March	International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Food Group meeting	Zoom
March to May	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course (Essential Food Safety)	Virtual/Live Online
March to May	Certification Body Auditor Calibration sessions	Webinars/calls
April	CPMA Food Safety Committee meeting	Conference call

<b>Month</b>	<b>Event / Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
April to November	CanadaGAP Witness Audits	Across Canada
May	CanadaGAP Webinar for Accreditation Bodies	Webinar
May	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition AGM	Zoom
May	GFSI US-Canada Local Group meeting	Zoom
June	CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee pre-meeting call	Zoom
June	Center for Produce Safety Research Symposium	Webinars
June and July	Annual Performance Review Meetings with Certification Bodies	Microsoft Teams
July	CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee meeting	Zoom
July	GFSI Update for Recognized CPOs	Zoom
August	GFSI Annual office visit (remote review)	Zoom
August	Annual meeting with ANAB-ANSI	Zoom
September	CanadaGAP Management Review	Zoom
September	Big 3 Pathogen Course (attendance)	Zoom
September	Presentation to Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee	Zoom
October	North American Produce WG Meeting	Zoom
October	International Federation for produce Standards (IFPS) Food Safety Committee meeting	Microsoft Teams
October	CPMA Food Safety Committee meeting	Conference call
October	International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Food Group meeting	Zoom
November	CPMA and FVGC Webinar on GFSI requirements and CanadaGAP Certification Options	Webinar
November	IFPS Sustainability Symposium (attending)	Zoom
November	ANAB Meeting with Scheme owners of Programs Based on ISO/IEC 17065	Hybrid/Zoom
December	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting and Board meetings	Zoom



Month	Event / Topic	Location
December	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online
December	CFIA-hosted meeting on Food Safety Recognition Program with National Industry Organizations	Microsoft Teams
December	Annual meeting with Standards Council of Canada	Microsoft Teams

### Program Participant Survey

Every three years, CanadaGAP formally surveys program participants on various aspects of program operations. In 2022, program participants were surveyed relative to the new CanadaGAP certification options introduced earlier this year – Options E and F. Significant communication efforts were made through 2022 to bring awareness of the new certification options to program participants and their customers. The survey is intended to gauge overall awareness and general understanding of how Options E and F compare to other CanadaGAP certification options. The survey was also designed to shed light on whether and where further efforts may be needed to communicate information about CanadaGAP certification options.

The survey is active through November and December 2022. Results will be compiled and shared with stakeholders in the new year. More information is available on the CanadaGAP website at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/2022/11/survey-of-canadagap-program-participants-2/>.

CanadaGAP wishes to thank all respondents to the survey, and welcomes stakeholder feedback on the program at any time.

### CanadaGAP Website

The CanadaGAP website [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca) contains guidance to improve understanding of food safety requirements and comprehensive information about how the program works. It is updated on an ongoing basis. Those interested in receiving the latest news from CanadaGAP can subscribe directly through the website by entering their information in the ‘Sign up’ section at the bottom of every page.

The website also makes freely available a range of handouts, posters, training tools, Frequently Asked Questions, and other communication materials to support operator and employee training. The most frequently accessed sections of the website include:



- Manuals downloads page
- List of CanadaGAP certified companies
- Presentations
- Hand washing signs

### **Other Stakeholder Communications**

CanadaGAP communicates regularly with program participants and other stakeholders through regular communiques. CanadaGAP publishes between 30-35 communiques each year. They can be accessed on the CanadaGAP website at: [www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/](http://www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/).

Auditor training notes are also distributed to affected stakeholders, including auditors, Certification Body representatives and program participants. These materials are equally available on the CanadaGAP website by visiting the 'Auditors' page.

For a listing of media coverage of CanadaGAP, consult the website at:  
<http://www.canadagap.ca/media/articles/>

### **Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course**

In 2014, CanadaGAP developed a two-day orientation course entitled 'Understanding the CanadaGAP Program'. The two-day course is designed to educate attendees on the main elements of the CanadaGAP program and provide some fresh produce food safety background to assist with their understanding of program requirements. The course materials are available from CanadaGAP upon request, in both English and French.

While CanadaGAP does not provide training directly, the 'Understanding the CanadaGAP Program' course is offered by various approved training providers. Training providers are permitted to deliver the course provided that they use a facilitator approved by CanadaGAP to offer the training. The facilitator must be familiar with the CanadaGAP Program and manual requirements (e.g., must have successfully passed the CanadaGAP Auditor Training Course).

A number of courses are offered by training partners each year in English and French. Eight courses were offered virtually in 2022 (5 public and 3 private). Courses are publicly advertised through the CanadaGAP website 'Calendar of Events' or by signing up to receive CanadaGAP communications directly at:  
[www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/](http://www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/).

Further information is available at:  
<https://www.canadagap.ca/program/training-resources/>  
or by contacting the CanadaGAP office.



## Program Participation

Nearly 3,100 producers are currently participating in CanadaGAP. Although program participation has still not fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic, the number of new enrolments and returning participants has been encouraging over the last year. 2022 saw the return of many producers who had suspended their participation in CanadaGAP as a result of COVID-19, which resulted in a 6% net increase to program participation levels.

The table below shows year-over-year changes in the number of producers participating in the program. The numbers below reflect net growth or decline, which factors in normal attrition resulting from changes in farming operations, retirements from the industry, and voluntary terminations of certification, etc.

**Year-over-Year Changes in CanadaGAP Participation**

<b>Year (Sept – Aug)</b>	<b>Number of producers</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>Rate of Growth (Decline)</b>
2008-2009	537	537	100%
2009-2010	781	244	45%
2010-2011	1879	1098	141%
2011-2012	2204	325	17%
2012-2013	2440	236	11%
2013-2014	2526	86	4%
2014-2015	2927	401	16%
2015-2016	3042	115	4%
2016-2017	3127	85	3%
2017-2018	3156	29	1%
2018-2019	3185	29	1%
2019-2020	3233	48	2%
2020-2021	2930	(303)	(-9%)
2021-2022	3097	167	6%





## Participation Trends

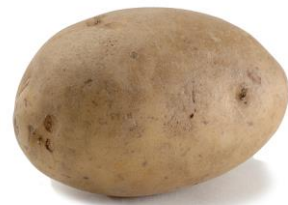
The following participation trends are noteworthy for 2022:

### *Regional Trends*

- Participation rose most markedly among producers in British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and the United States this past year. This turnaround contributed to offsetting some of the departures of BC and US producers from the program in 2021.
- In 2022, slight declines in enrolment were seen in Quebec, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Correspondingly, small increases were seen in the number of participating companies in Ontario and New Brunswick.
- British Columbia continues to maintain the highest enrolment levels overall, at 38% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies, followed by Ontario (22% of program participants) and Quebec (17% of program participants).

### *Certification Options*

- The proportion of producers participating in the program through Group Certification (Option B) has recovered slightly in 2022, now standing at 10% of producers certified to CanadaGAP. While 10% represents an improvement over last year's all-time low of 7%, it remains nonetheless a much smaller proportion of producers participating in group certification as compared to previous levels of enrolment in Option B. From 2008 to 2020, the proportion of participants from CanadaGAP-certified groups ranged between 20% to 30% of all enrolments. The steep decline in group certification occurred after the introduction of more stringent GFSI requirements for group certification in 2020. While some producers who were formerly members of a group are now individually certified to a different CanadaGAP certification option, many of the groups previously certified to CanadaGAP left the program to seek group certification under other programs that are not GFSI-recognized.
- A significant number of CanadaGAP-certified producers moving from group certification to individual certification are choosing certification options that are not GFSI-recognized. In both 2021 and 2022, 27% of certified companies enrolled in the four-year audit cycle (Option A1 or A2), up 5% since 2020. Two percent of program participants are also participating in new non-GFSI options E and F.
- In conjunction with increased enrolment in non-GFSI-recognized certification options, the proportion of program participants enrolled in Option C has fallen to pre-2020 levels. Option C now comprises 56% of all program participants, down 5% from last year.



## Commodity and Sector Trends

- For the purposes of analyzing participation trends, enrolment figures are broken down by five crop groupings:
  - Tree and Vine Fruit
  - Field Vegetables
  - Potatoes
  - Small Fruit
  - Greenhouse

Total participation in CanadaGAP is 100%. The proportion of that total occupied by each crop grouping is presented below and within the attached program statistics, where further details as well as a provincial breakdown are included. Data is current as of August 31, 2022.

### Proportion of CanadaGAP Participants represented by crop grouping:

Based on # of producers	Tree and Vine Fruit	Field Vegetables	Potatoes	Small Fruit	Greenhouse	Repacking, wholesale & brokerage	Total CanadaGAP Participation
<b>Percentage of CanadaGAP participants in 2022</b>	24%	27%	18%	19%	6%	6%	100%
<b>For comparison:</b>							
<b>2021</b>	21%	29%	19%	19%	6%	5%	100%
<b>2020</b>	24%	30%	17%	18%	6%	5%	100%
<b>2019</b>	24%	29%	18%	19%	7%	3%	100%
<b>2018</b>	24%	27%	18%	20%	8%	3%	100%
<b>2017</b>	24%	25%	19%	21%	8%	3%	100%
<b>2016</b>	30%	24%	18%	20%	8%	Not reported	100%
<b>2015</b>	33%	23%	18%	18%	8%	Not reported	100%

## Audit Trends

- Number of CanadaGAP Audits (for Options A1, A2, C, D, E and F, and Group Management System audits)*

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	1643*	2019	1748	1650	1589	1538	1390	1270

Reporting period from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued.

\*Reporting delays at CanadaGAP's largest CB have impacted the number of audits reported to date. The final figure for 2022 is expected to be significantly higher than 1643 audits.

In addition, approximately 100 farms that belong to groups are audited each year.

- *Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping* (from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued)

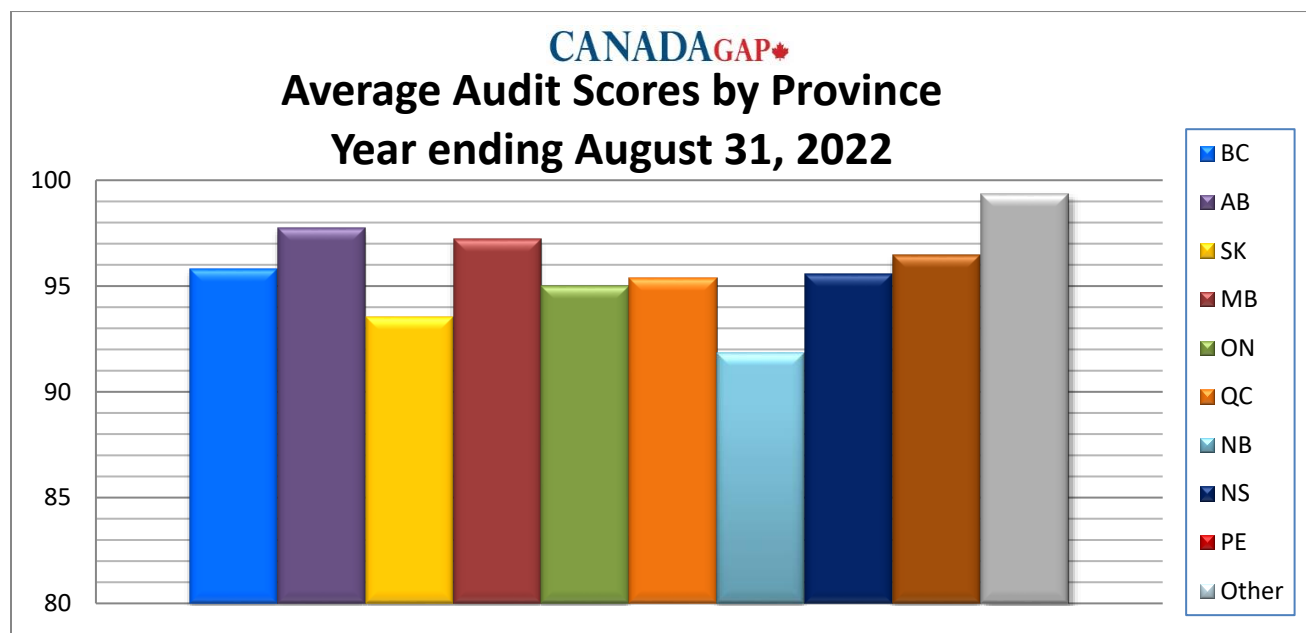
<i>Crop Grouping</i>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Potato</b>	95.81	94.55	94.59	94.46	94.98	93.84	94.36
<b>Greenhouse</b>	97.24	96.91	95.66	96.63	96.36	95.55	95.98
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	94.61	93.54	93.76	92.84	93.75	93.97	93.20
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	95.57	93.95	93.78	93.82	94.61	93.97	94.41
<b>Small Fruit</b>	95.77	94.45	94.25	92.92	93.29	92.44	92.30
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	96.18	94.87	94.38	94.50	94.61	92.86	94.11
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>95.70</b>	94.61	94.28	93.98	94.34	93.24	94.04

Despite the many challenges to the industry resulting from COVID, the one-year period ending August 31, **2022 has resulted in the highest ever average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants.**

Based on preliminary audit results (before corrective actions were implemented), the overall average of 95.70% was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options. Average audit scores in the past year are slightly higher across all commodity groups covered by the CanadaGAP program, including Tree and Vine Fruit, Potatoes, Greenhouse, Field Vegetables, and Small Fruit. Repacking and Wholesaling (Option D) audit scores also trended higher in 2022, averaging 94.59%.

Big congratulations are extended to CanadaGAP-certified companies, for continuing to maintain and achieve high levels of food safety within their operations!

The graph below illustrates average audit scores by province:





## New Certification Options

In April 2022 CanadaGAP introduced two new certification options, Options E and F. CanadaGAP now offers a total of seven different certification options. Options E and F were introduced to provide an alternative to companies wishing to be certified to CanadaGAP whose customers require an annual audit but do not necessarily expect their suppliers to be certified to a GFSI-recognized program. Options E and F were closely patterned on two existing CanadaGAP certification options (Options C and D) that are recognized by GFSI, with some subtle differences. The chart below compares the various options. More information is available on the CanadaGAP website at: [www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-options/](http://www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-options/)

Options C and D (GFSI-recognized)	Options E and F (Not GFSI-recognized)
<p><u><b>SAME:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Safety standard</li> <li>• Audit criteria</li> <li>• Audit rigour</li> <li>• Audit frequency (annual)</li> <li>• Autofail items</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unannounced Audits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No advance notice from the auditor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unannounced Audits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 to 5 business days' notice from the auditor</li> </ul>
<p><b>Passing score: 100%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All non-conformities corrected prior to certification</li> </ul>	<p><b>Passing score: 95%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some wiggle room for minor non-conformities or items requiring a significant capital investment</li> </ul>

## Random Audit Programme

CanadaGAP offers certification on a four-year cycle to companies participating in Option A1 and A2. These certification options are not GFSI-recognized as they do not entail an annual on-site audit. To become certified, companies undergo a scheduled audit in the first year of the four-year cycle. To be recertified in the subsequent three years, they may be randomly chosen for an audit in any or all of the three years. If they are not randomly selected, they must complete a self-declaration and self-assessment and submit it to the Certification Body to demonstrate their ongoing adherence to program requirements.

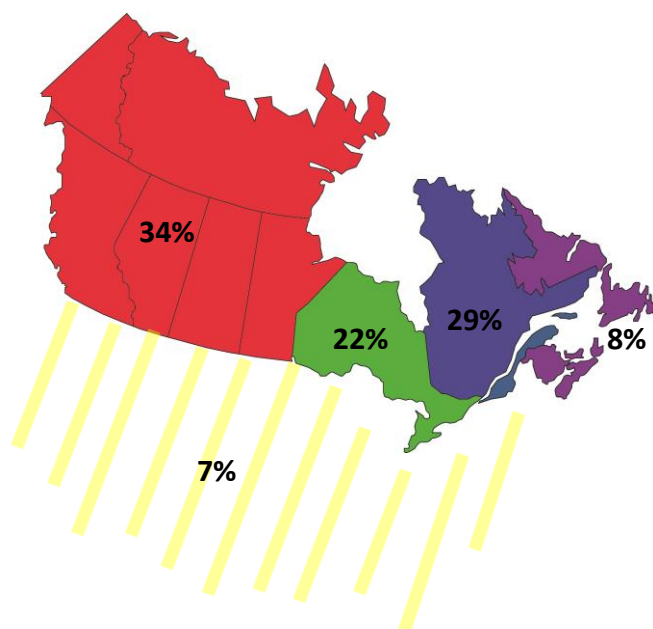
The table below compares certification audit scores to random audit scores since 2012. The interesting trend of the last five years continues, with operations randomly selected for an audit achieving on average higher scores than Option A1/A2 operations undergoing their regularly scheduled audit. Data pertaining to 2022 random audits will be available in 2023.

## CanadaGAP Random Audit Results for Option A1 and A2

<i>Year</i>	<b>Average Audit Score during Regular 4-year Audit</b>	<b>Average Audit Score for Random Audits</b>
2012	87.56	90.65
2013	91.85	91.55
2014	90.14	91.92
2015	91.03	93.50
2016	91.16	88.05
2017	91.06	93.64
2018	91.82	92.92
2019	90.35	92.69
2020	90.82	94.40
2021	91.82	93.26

## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 59 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors currently working for a Certification Body (CB). This represents 12% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 21% of those who have passed the course.
- The map below shows auditors by region:



	<b># of auditors</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>West</b>	20	34%
<b>Ontario</b>	13	22%
<b>Quebec</b>	17	29%
<b>Atlantic</b>	5	8%
<b>U.S./LatAm</b>	4	7%
<b>Total</b>	59	100%

Data current as of October 31, 2022

With respect to the CanadaGAP auditor pool, 2022 was noteworthy for two reasons:

- 1) **A significant increase in the number of auditors in Quebec:** While two long-time auditors in Quebec retired in 2022, seven new candidates were qualified, resulting in a net gain of five Quebec auditors this year. In terms of totals by province, Quebec has the largest pool of CanadaGAP auditors (17 in total). By way of comparison, British Columbia, with the highest number of program participants, has 13 auditors. This trend is particularly noteworthy given that Quebec has half as many program participants as BC (17% of program participants in QC as compared to 38% in BC).
- 2) **Auditor turnover rates reached an all-time high in 2022:** CanadaGAP and Certification Body personnel have been especially challenged this year with efforts to recruit, train and qualify new auditors. Eight auditors departed the program in 2022, while fifteen new auditors were trained and qualified. This rate is almost double the turnover of auditors experienced in previous years. The recent high levels of attrition among food safety auditors is not unique to CanadaGAP and is attributed to a number of factors:
  - a. Auditor burnout due to the demands of the job – including travel pressures that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like producers, auditors in the agricultural sector face intense levels of activity and long workdays during peak season. Many auditors complete two audits a day, for weeks at a time, followed by report writing after hours.
  - b. 'The Great Resignation': Auditors are part of an overall trend closely associated with the pandemic, in which individuals are actively reconsidering issues of work-life balance and reprioritizing personal values such as family, health and well-being in their choice of work.
  - c. Increasing job stress resulting from demands on auditors to meet service levels and GFSI-related requirements for audit delivery (e.g., no notice on unannounced audits, multiple audits in a given year to cover more than one scope of activity, pushback from auditees needing to comply with 100% closeout of corrective action requests, extra CARs review, etc.). These changes have resulted in additional workload, communication demands and time pressures for auditors.



### Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors

For the past two years, CanadaGAP auditor training courses have been offered remotely due to the pandemic. Virtual courses have reached not only more potential auditor candidates, but also consultants, food safety managers and other stakeholders who attend the courses for education purposes. The course offerings have been filling up quickly and reaching maximum registration capacity.

Although the course is primarily designed to train potential auditors, the practical knowledge provided in the auditor training course is as beneficial to a food safety manager who is implementing the program at their operation as it is for an auditor who is being trained to verify compliance.



### Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Total since 2008
Number of people who have taken auditor training course	52	59	37	25	19	48	16	478
Number of people who passed the course to date*	19	30	13	17	11	32	9	287
Percentage of people who passed the course to date*	63%	70%	52%	77%	65%	70%	75%	67%
Number of auditor training sessions	8	5	5	6	3	7	4	71

*\*Results are cumulative as of October 31, 2022. One course from 2021 has exam rewrites that are ongoing. Five courses from 2022 have exam rewrites still ongoing. Data is not yet complete. These numbers are therefore not considered final or representative. Those who attended the course for educational purposes only were not included when calculating the number or the percentage of people who passed the course.*

### CanadaGAP Repacking and Wholesaling Auditor Training

The scope of the CanadaGAP program has included certification for repacking and wholesaling operations since 2014. Currently, 39 CanadaGAP auditors (66% of active auditors) are qualified to perform repacking and wholesaling audits.

Training of new and current auditors for the additional scope is ongoing. The Repacking and Wholesaling training unit is now embedded within the regular CanadaGAP Auditor Training course for new candidates. At their discretion, Certification Bodies may also opt to offer training in the additional scope to their existing pool of auditors who may not yet hold this qualification. One Certification Body offered this training unit as a webinar to their auditors in April 2022. Exam attempts are ongoing but an additional group of CanadaGAP auditors successfully completed the exam and now are qualified to audit to this scope.

### CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Training and Testing

First introduced in 2014, auditor refresher training and assessment have been administered by CanadaGAP every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of program requirements, including new requirements that have been recently introduced. It is mandatory for currently qualified auditors to complete refresher assessments, and for all internal auditors who work for Groups (under certification Option B).

The most recent refresher assessment was completed in 2020. Under normal circumstances, refresher testing would occur again towards the end of 2022. However, due to resource pressures this year, CanadaGAP management made the decision to delay refresher testing until further notice. Most likely, refresher testing of active CanadaGAP auditors will resume in 2023, coinciding with the release of Version 10.0 of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals and implementation of the results of the Greenhouse scope expansion project.

### ***Train-the-Auditor Trainer Refresher Testing***

Auditor trainers must also undergo periodic refresher testing by CanadaGAP. Trainers who are currently qualified are being retested in the final quarter of 2022.

## **Certification Bodies**

The following four Certification Bodies have been offering CanadaGAP audits and certification in 2022:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- Control Union
- NSF Canada Ag (including sub-contractor Gestion Qualiterra in Quebec)
- Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI)



CanadaGAP welcomed Control Union as a newly licensed Certification Body in July 2022. The Control Union office is located in Vancouver, and the company has CanadaGAP auditors in several provinces. Control Union is not currently offering audits in Quebec.

Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI) joined the program as a Certification Body offering CanadaGAP audits in 2020. This fall, PJRFSI announced that they will cease offering CanadaGAP certification as of March 2023. We thank them for their partnership with the program over the last few years.

CanadaGAP auditors are employed or contracted directly by the Certification Body, and some auditors work for more than one CB. Information about each Certification Body is available on the CanadaGAP website at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-bodies/>

## **Integrity Programme to Oversee Certification Body and Auditor Performance**

CanadaGAP's integrity surveillance programme for Certification Bodies consists of:

- Mandatory annual performance review meeting with each CB
- Service standards set out in licensing agreements, monitored and reported on annually
- Certification Body office audits encompassing all service providers over a 5-year cycle (BNQ: 2018; NSF: 2019; Gestion Qualiterra: 2021; PJRFSI: 2022; NSF: planned for 2023)
- Audit report spot checks (at least one per auditor each year)
- CanadaGAP participation on CB calls where auditors receive updates and are calibrated to program requirements and scoring. CanadaGAP staff have an opportunity in this way to monitor auditor performance, gaps in auditor knowledge, etc.
- Witness audits – our goal is to see every auditor at least once over the 5-year audit cycle
- Auditor Refresher Testing is repeated on a regular basis to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.

## **What's Ahead for 2023?**

- An update to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals (Version 10.0) will be published for the 2023 season. The Greenhouse manual will reflect the scope expansion that CanadaGAP has been working on over the past year. The manuals are typically published by January, with an effective date of April 1, 2023. For further updates please visit the program website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)
- CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Testing is planned for Q4 of 2023.
- Active engagement in GFSI activities will continue, including participation in the US-Canada Local Group, various GFSI "Race to the Top" initiatives, and regular meetings with the GFSI Steering Committee and management.
- Board Strategic Planning activities will continue into 2023, with planned opportunities for stakeholder engagement and consultation.



## Thank you to CanadaGAP Staff and Valued Partners

CanadaGAP extends sincere thanks and appreciation to our partners at the Certification Bodies – BNQ, Control Union, NSF Canada Ag and PJRFSI – and to each hard-working CanadaGAP auditor.

Management and directors wish to express heartfelt thanks to the small, dedicated team of highly competent staff members who are instrumental to the smooth and efficient functioning of the CanadaGAP program.

CanadaGAP thanks the hard-working volunteers from industry who make up our talented Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee.

CanadaGAP Program staff and Directors recognize and appreciate the efforts of every CanadaGAP-certified operation in their commitment to producing food safely for the benefit of all.





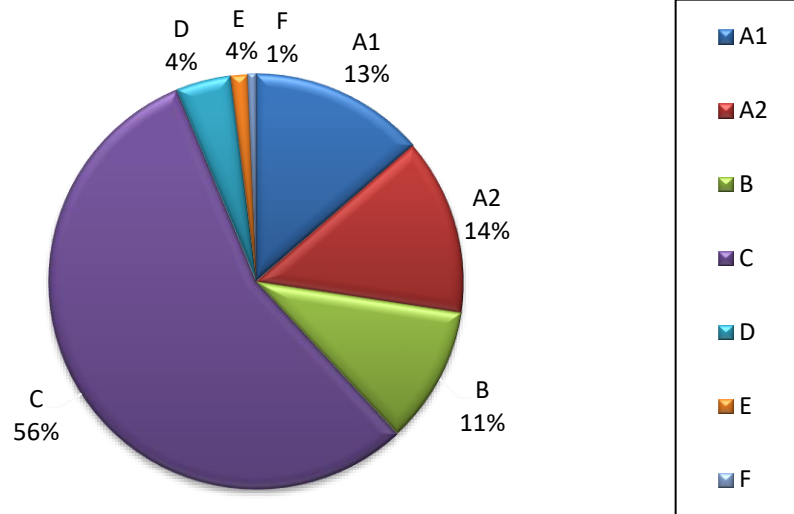
# **CanadaGAP**

## **Program Uptake**

### **Statistics**

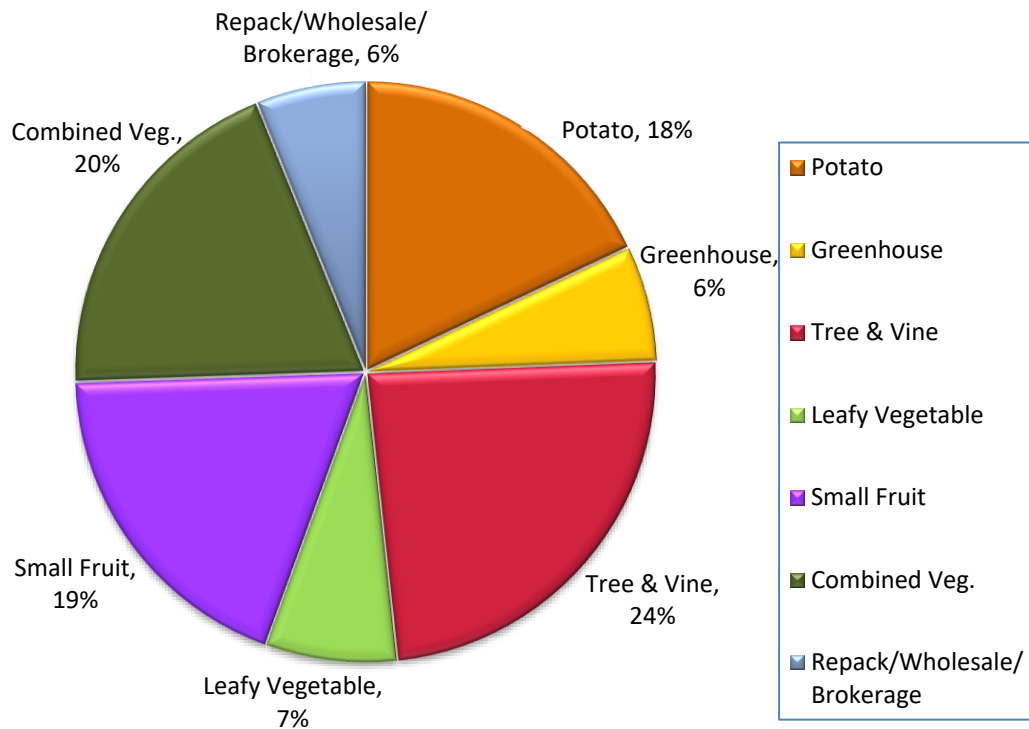
## Participation by option

Aug 31, 2022

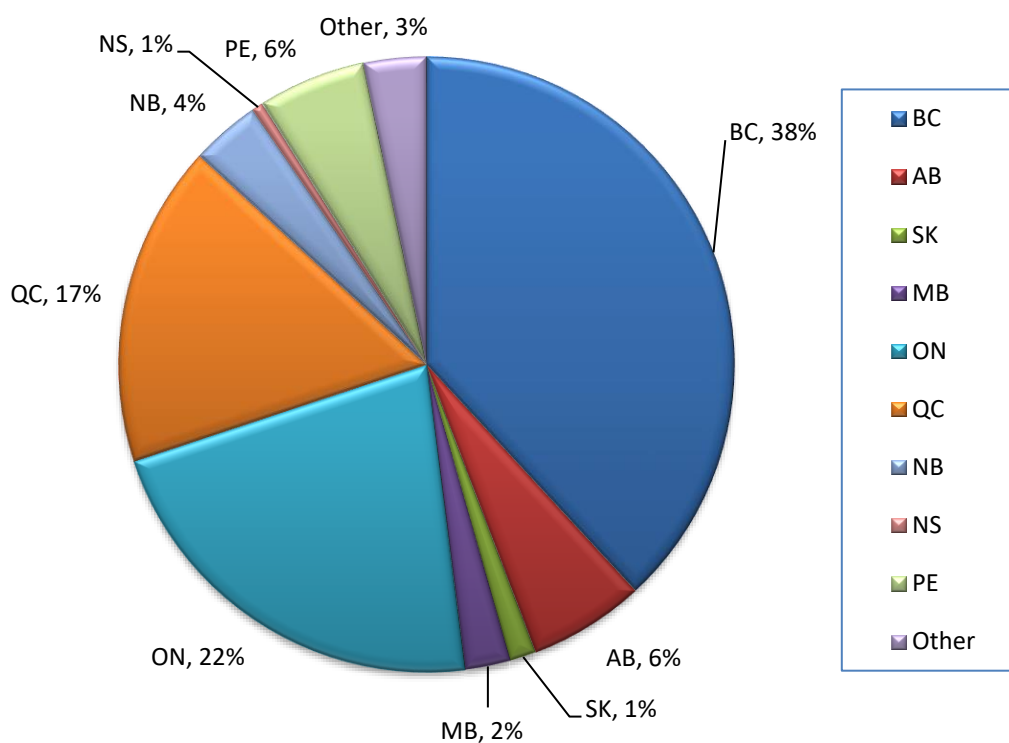


## Program uptake by commodity

August 31, 2022



## Operations Enrolled by Province August 31, 2022



## Commodity by Province - August 31, 2022

