

# CANADAGAP

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



[www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)

**CanadaGAP Program**

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## **Annual Report 2014**

CanadaGAP™ is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store and wholesale fruits and vegetables. It 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. The program has been benchmarked and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for certification options B and C.

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.

2014 marks the sixth complete season for CanadaGAP, and a continuance of the steady growth and progress seen since the program was launched in 2008. We're pleased to highlight the following key activities and accomplishments this year.

### **Integration of Repacking and Wholesale Food Safety Requirements**

A major milestone was realized in 2014 with the unveiling of the fully integrated program on April 1<sup>st</sup>. CanadaGAP certification became available to repacking and wholesaling operations under the new Option D. This achievement was the culmination of discussions that began in 2009 between the Canadian Horticultural Council and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) to consolidate CanadaGAP with the former CPMA Repacking and Wholesale Food Safety Program.

The new certification option has seen a steady pace of enrolment since its launch. CanadaGAP extends congratulations to the first companies who were certified under Option D:

- ✓ BC Hot House Foods
- ✓ Western Harvest
- ✓ Manley Sales
- ✓ Chenail Import-Export
- ✓ Les Aliments Aquafuchsia Foods Inc.

A number of other companies have enrolled and are preparing for upcoming audits. Once ten accredited certificates have been issued, CanadaGAP will begin the process to benchmark Option D to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) requirements.

## **Report from the Board**

### **First Annual General Meeting**

Members participated in the corporation's First Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February 2014. A new Board of Directors was elected. Directors will serve two-year rotating terms. In keeping with the by-laws developed by the corporation's founding organizations, four of the eight directors are approved by the Canadian Horticultural Council and two directors by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association. Immediately following the AGM, the Board selected its current Chair, Jack Bates, and Hugh Bowman was chosen to serve as Vice-Chair. Annually, the Board meets twice face-to-face and holds regular conference calls. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/about-us/governance/>

### **Management Review**

Representatives from the Board convened the program management review on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is held annually with senior management and encompasses a review of requests for modifications to the program; performance of certification bodies; complaints and their handling; internal audit results; auditor training undertaken and its outcomes; provision of resources; conflict of interest and confidentiality policies, among others. Other key topics of discussion this year included auditor competence, recruitment and compensation by the certification bodies.

## **Program Participation**

### **Directory of CanadaGAP-Certified Companies**

Over the past year CanadaGAP has worked to streamline internal processes to enable the compilation of a list of certified companies. The new list, which will be published starting January 2015 on the CanadaGAP website, consolidates the details based on information provided by the certification bodies. The list will be a searchable PDF and draws on details of certificates issued, suspended or withdrawn. This list is designed to help users find CanadaGAP-certified companies; however, it is important to note that the certification bodies remain the definitive source to confirm a supplier's certification status. More information can be found at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca) under "Certified Companies".

### **Participation Trends**

More than 2,500 producers are now enrolled in CanadaGAP, representing an increase of 3.5% since 2013. The following participation trends are noteworthy for 2014:

- The fastest-growing area of participation continues to be at the farm level, as certified packinghouses request food safety compliance from growers in response to new requirements from retail/food service.

- Continued trending towards increased enrolment among Ontario and U.S. producers. 2014 saw a 100% increase in Ontario greenhouse enrolments and 25% growth for Ontario apple and combined vegetable producers.
- High proportion of enrolments continue to occur among individuals choosing Option C (annual audit), comprising 40% of all certified companies.
- The trend continues away from the four-year audit cycle options (A1 and A2), which now stand at 30% of all CanadaGAP enrolments. (Was 50% in 2011)
- The proportion of producers achieving certification in a group option continues to be stable at approximately 30% of enrolments.
- This year saw higher than normal retirements as the established farming population ages. Processing potato producers are withdrawing from CanadaGAP due to reduced number of processing contracts. Manitoba started with 80 and is now down to 68, New Brunswick was 96 and is now 88. The totals for potato enrolments are stable because tablestock producers in other provinces have joined.
- 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, and 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. The Tree Fruit industry continues to lead enrolment figures.

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

Based on # of producers	Tree and Vine Fruit	Field Vegetables	Potatoes	Small Fruit	Greenhouse	Total CanadaGAP Participation
<b>Percentage of CanadaGAP participants</b>	35%	24%	18%	15%	8%	100%

Data current as at August 31, 2014

## **Audit Trends**

### ▪ *Number of CanadaGAP Audits*

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	1037	1031	771	557

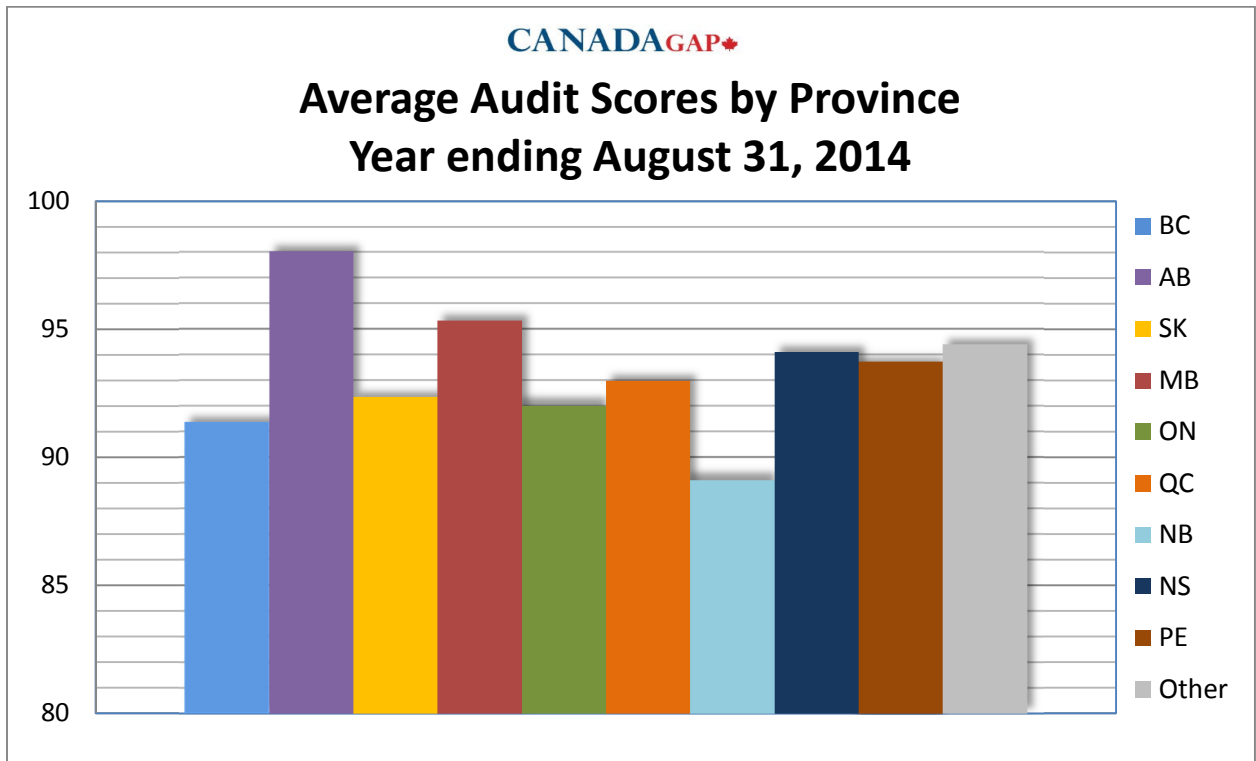
Reporting period from September 1 to August 31

- *Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping*

<i>Crop Grouping</i>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Potato</b>	94.19	92.54	93.19	92.88
<b>Greenhouse</b>	92.40	94.80	95.16	95.07
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	89.19	92.71	88.99	89.77
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	91.76	92.43	90.35	89.42
<b>Small Fruit</b>	90.91	92.71	91.11	90.91
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	92.85	93.40	91.52	90.96
<b>Overall Average</b>	91.88	92.81	91.65	91.83

Reporting period from September 1 to August 31

- Trends: Audit scores remain consistently high. This has been a steady trend over the years, across provinces and commodities. This trend shows a general consistency in audit results and in the implementation and interpretation of requirements.



## Random Audit Programme

CanadaGAP offers certification on a four-year cycle to companies participating in Option A1 and A2. 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 continuing adherence to program requirements.

2014 marks the 5-year anniversary for CanadaGAP running its random audit programme for Option A1 and A2 participants, and the statistics show some interesting trends.

<i>Year</i>	<b>Average Audit Score for Option A1 and A2</b>	<b>Average Audit Score for Random Audits</b>
2010	93.85	95.94
2011	91.28	93.67
2012	87.56	92.57
2013	91.85	91.18
2014	90.14	91.04

Random audit scores, with a minor exception in 2013, are consistently *higher* than the scores achieved on scheduled audits. This encouraging trend suggests that companies are doing a good job maintaining their programs consistently and are ready to demonstrate compliance to their auditor even in years when they may not be expecting an on-site visit.

## Report on Certification Bodies

CanadaGAP continues to license four certification bodies. These auditing firms are approved to offer CanadaGAP audits:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- NSF-GFTC
- SAI Global
- SGS Canada

In 2014, sub-contractor Gestion Qualiterra Inc. aligned itself with NSF-GFTC to provide CanadaGAP audit services in Quebec under the NSF-GFTC banner.

## Integrity Programme

CanadaGAP's integrity surveillance programme for certification bodies consists of:

- Mandatory annual performance review meeting with each certification body
- Service standards set out in licensing agreements that are monitored and reported on annually
- Certification body office audits (QMI-SAI: 2012, BNQ: 2013, NSF-GFTC: 2014)
- Audit report spot checks (at least one per auditor each year)
- CanadaGAP participation on auditor calibration calls to monitor auditor performance, gaps in their knowledge, etc.
- Witness audits – every auditor is seen at least once over the 5-year audit cycle (2011-Ontario; 2012-BC and Alberta; 2013-Atlantic; 2014-Manitoba and Ontario; 2015-Quebec and U.S.)
- Auditor Refresher Testing has been instituted this year to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements.
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.

## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 40 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors (currently working for a Certification Body). This represents 23% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 34% of those who passed the course.

*Auditors by region:*

	<b>West</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>Atlantic</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Total</b>
# auditors	11	11	13	4	1	40
Percentage	27%	27%	33%	10%	3%	100%

*Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:*

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total since 2008</b>
Number of people who completed CanadaGAP auditor training course	27	28	23	18	<b>171</b>
Number of people who passed the course	13	16	19	13	<b>118</b>
Percentage of people who passed the course	48%	57%	83%	72%	<b>69%</b>
Number of auditor training sessions	3	5	3	4	<b>28</b>

## Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP had one of the busiest years to date for education and outreach activities. Following is a list of scheduled presentations and invitations for CanadaGAP:

Date (2014)	Event / Topic	Location
January 8	CanAgPlus Special Meeting	Webinar
January 15	CanadaGAP Presentation to Crop Life Canada	Ottawa, ON
January 23	CanadaGAP Orientation for Market and Industry Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada	Ottawa, ON
January 27-28	CanadaGAP Update at Scotia Horticultural Congress	Wolfville, NS
February 10	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting 2013	Webinar
February 11-13	CanadaGAP Update and Option D presentation at Semaine horticole 2014 (Conseil quebecois de l'horticulture)	Boucherville, QC
February 19-20	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention	Niagara Falls, ON
February 26-28	Global Food Safety Conference – GFSI scheme owner presentation at Stakeholders Meeting	Anaheim, California
March 4-6	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting – Food Safety Committee	Kelowna, BC
March 19	Risk Communication Workshop for Agri-Food Subcommittee and Beef Value Chain Roundtable	Ottawa, ON
March 26	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Forum	Mississauga, ON
April 2-4	CPMA Convention and Trade Show	Vancouver, BC
April 3	OMAFRA Greenbelt Fund Grower Workshop	Mississauga, ON
April 11	Loblaws meeting	Mississauga, ON
April 23	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Annual General Meeting	Ottawa, ON
May & June	Media interviews re: CanadaGAP Option D (Produce News, Globe and Mail, The Grower)	By telephone
June 4	Agri-Food Subcommittee on Food Safety	Ottawa, ON
June 6	CanadaGAP Webinar for ANSI Assessors	Webinar



June 25	CanadaGAP Option D presentation at Ontario Food Terminal	Toronto, ON
July 17	CanadaGAP Interview for Korean Broadcasting Corporation	Ottawa, ON
August 19	CFIA Establishment Inspections meeting at Ontario Food Terminal	Toronto, ON
September 19	CPMA Webinar on CanadaGAP and CFIA Establishment Inspections	Webinar
September 30	Japan External Trade Organization meeting	Ottawa, ON
October 9-10	GFSI Technical Working Group meeting	Connecticut
October 14	CanadaGAP Presentation at National Academy of Agricultural Science GAP Symposium	Jeonju, South Korea
November	IFPS Food Safety Committee	Conference call
December 5	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting 2014	Ottawa, ON

2014 also saw the launch as a pilot project of the “Introduction to CanadaGAP” course, a two-day orientation to the program offered by NFS-GFTC’s training centre. The session was well-attended and CanadaGAP received valuable feedback to help refine course content to meet the needs of participants. A second pilot testing of the course will be offered by NSF-GFTC in early 2015.

## What Else is Ahead in 2015?

- GFSI Benchmarking of Option D and Annual Assessment. We hope to submit our request for GFSI recognition of CanadaGAP Option D by the end of 2014.
- Completion of the Canadian Government Recognition Program: CanadaGAP has completed government technical reviews of its manuals and generic HACCP models. We’re now undertaking recognition of the program management and delivery system. Management System Technical Review by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was initiated September 2014. CanadaGAP hopes to complete Implementation Assessment and achieve full Government Recognition in 2015.
- Compile survey results from program participant survey on Auditor Competence: A survey developed by GFSI is currently being completed voluntarily by program participants. Results will be compiled and aggregated with other scheme owner results to inform GFSI on the status of program auditors.
- Changes to 2015 Manuals – some of the key revisions to come into effect April 1, 2015 include:
  - The addition of brokers to the program scope
  - The addition of mushrooms to the wholesaling scope
  - New requirement in Section 19.1 relative to sourcing product.

- Marketing and Education Programme – 2015 events to look forward to:
  - CanadaGAP Presentation at Manitoba Potato Days, Brandon, Manitoba in January
  - CanadaGAP Presentation at CQH Semaine horticole, Boucherville, Quebec in February
  - Scheme Owner Breakout session at the Global Food Safety Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March
  - CanadaGAP Presentation at the Muck Vegetable Conference, Bradford, Ontario in April
  - GFSI Focus Day, Toronto, Ontario in May.

Stay tuned for further details on these and other events!

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks are extended to our hardworking staff members, program participants, certification bodies and auditors, affiliates, supporters, service providers and other partners. It takes a team of many dedicated people working together towards a common goal to achieve the success enjoyed by the program.

Report prepared by,

Heather Gale, Executive Director  
CanadaGAP Program, CanAgPlus

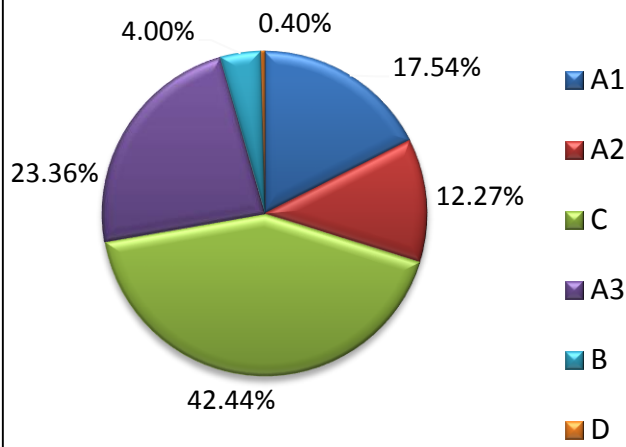


# **CanadaGAP**

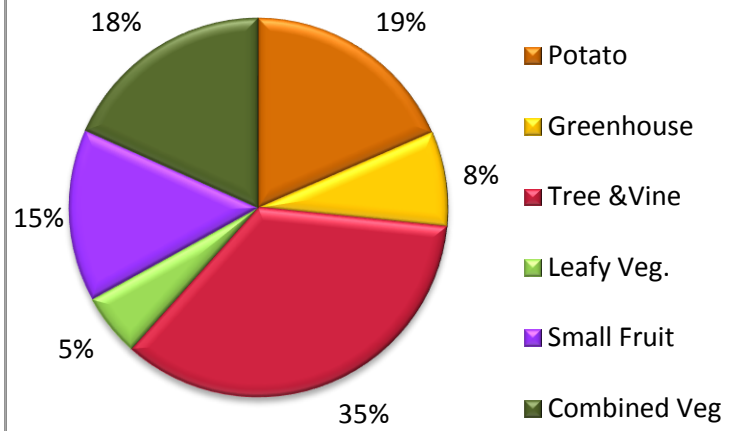
## **Program Uptake**

### **Statistics**

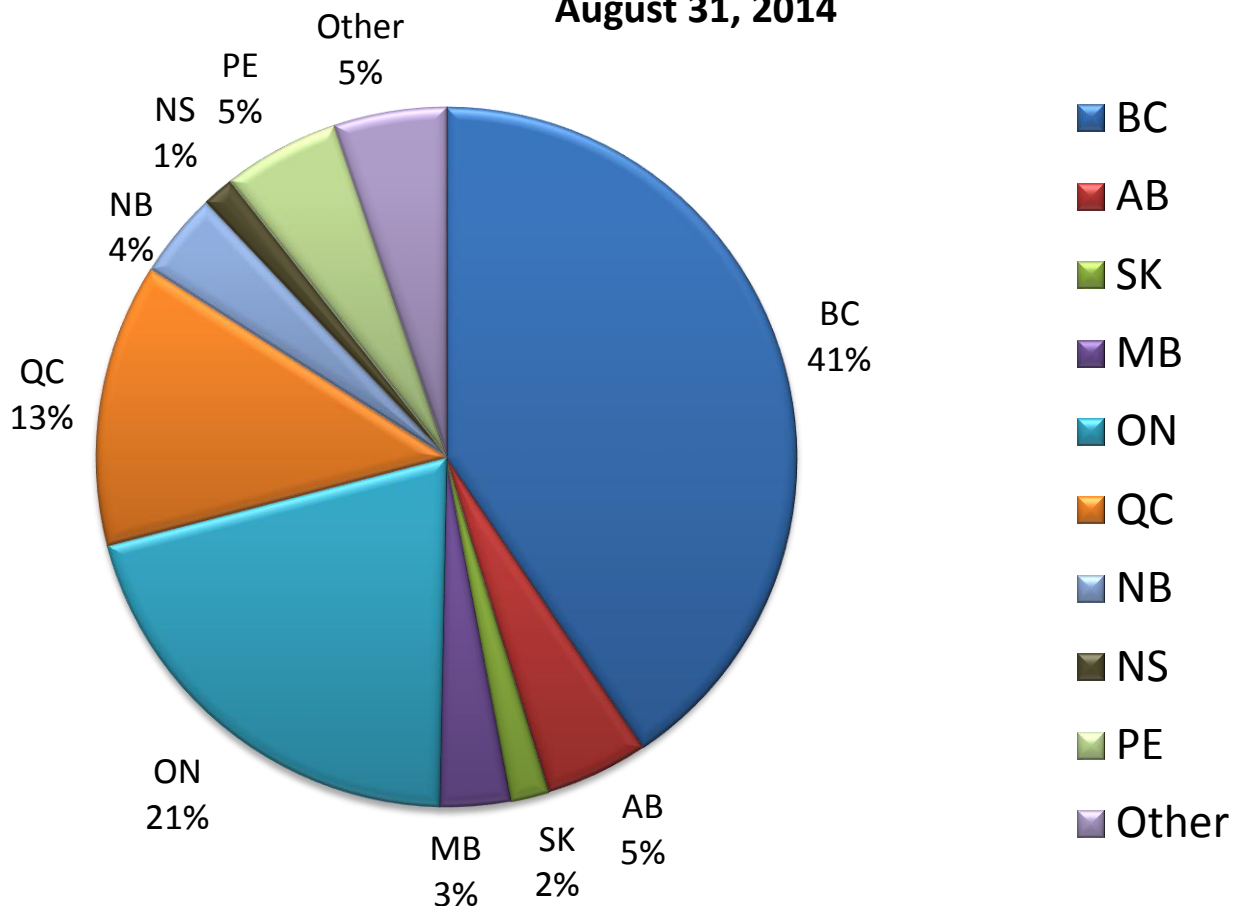
**Participation by option  
August 31, 2014**



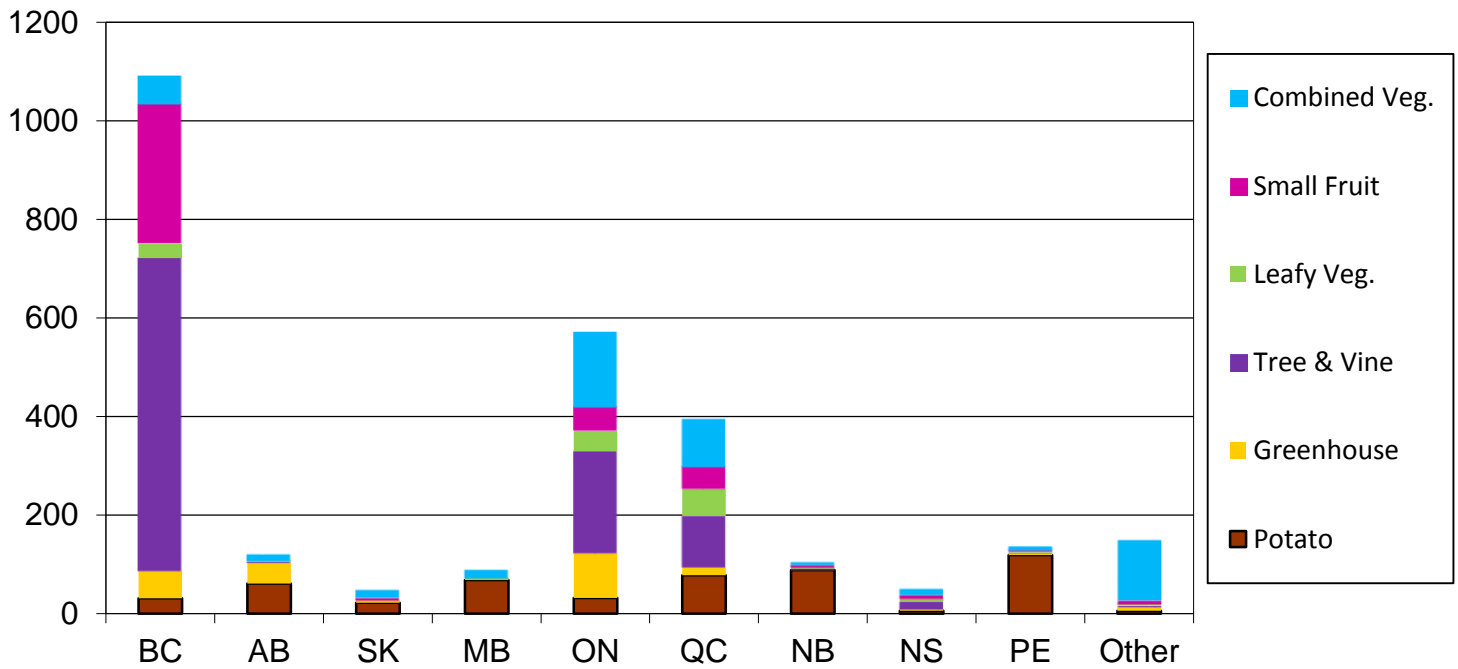
**Proportion of CanadaGAP Participants  
represented by crop grouping  
August 31, 2014**



**Operations Enrolled by Province  
August 31, 2014**



## Provincial Commodity Representation August 31, 2014



## Commodity by Province - August 31, 2014

