

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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**CANADAGAP** 

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

## **CanadaGAP Program**

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## Annual Report 2018



CanadaGAP<sup>®</sup> is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store, wholesale and broker fruits and vegetables. 2018 marks the ten-year anniversary of CanadaGAP certification becoming available. The program officially launched in September 2008 with the enrolment of five hundred potato growers, and has grown to over 3,100 participating companies today 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 officially recognized by the Canadian Government.

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 3,100 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.

### Key Achievements for 2018

Below are some of the highlights from the past year:

- **Alignment with new *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*:** CanadaGAP achieved full Government Recognition in March 2017 under the Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program.

This stamp of approval by federal and provincial governments positions the program favourably in the context of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* that will come into force on January 15, 2019. CanadaGAP is recognized as a “model system” for food safety preventive controls that fresh produce operations will need to have in place under the new regulations.

In addition, CanadaGAP participated in a pilot project with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to ensure that program requirements are aligned with the new federal regulations. Some welcome changes to the legislation were introduced in response to technical comments submitted by CanadaGAP. The positive results of the comparison, as well as further details about how CanadaGAP fits with regulatory initiatives, are published at [www.canadagap.ca/publications](http://www.canadagap.ca/publications).

- **Highest Average Audit Score:** 2018 saw the average audit score peak at **94.34%**. CanadaGAP-certified companies have set record-high scores in the tenth anniversary year of the program! Congratulations to program participants for showing great commitment to continuously improving their audit results.
- **GFSI Recognition:** Re-benchmarking of the CanadaGAP program to GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) requirements Version 7.1 was successfully completed in 2018. CanadaGAP has been GFSI-recognized since 2010. Re-benchmarking occurs each time GFSI updates its requirements. Significant effort and resources are devoted to securing and maintaining GFSI recognition, which enables program users to access markets both within and outside Canada.
- **Growth in Option D:** Since receiving GFSI recognition for Option D in 2016, interest in CanadaGAP certification for repacking, wholesaling and brokerage operations has grown steadily. Customer demands for supply chain certification continue to drive uptake of Option D, leading to a 13% growth rate over the last year. With 90 participating companies, we are close to reaching the target of 100 clients that was set when the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) Repacking and Wholesaling standard was integrated into the CanadaGAP program four years ago.
- **Unannounced Audits:** Program participants and certification bodies undertook the first full year of implementation of the Unannounced Audit programme over the course of the past season. Five percent of CanadaGAP-certified companies are selected each year by their certification body to undergo an audit “unannounced” – i.e., with only 2 to 5 business days’ notice. This initiative aligns CanadaGAP with GFSI requirements and contributes to improving the integrity and credibility of certification.
- **FSMA Resources:** CanadaGAP has maintained and updated a series of resources first published in 2017 on the CanadaGAP website. The purpose of these materials is to help CanadaGAP-certified companies understand the impact of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act on their export or U.S.-based business. The following resources can be found at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca) under “Food Safety Links”:
  - Information for Canadian exporters to the United States about the Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP)

- Comparison of CanadaGAP requirements with the U.S. Produce Safety Rule
- Guidance on whether the U.S. Preventive Controls Rule applies to your business
- Links to external sources containing useful information about implementation timeframes, exemptions and exclusions, flow charts, etc.

## 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 December. At the 2017 AGM, one resolution related to Unannounced Audits was debated. The 2018 AGM will take place in Ottawa on December 6, 2018.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eight volunteer directors. In keeping with the by-laws developed by the corporation's founding organizations, four directors are approved by the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and two by CPMA, with another two directors at-large. Directors serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. Four positions are available to aspiring candidates at the 2018 AGM.

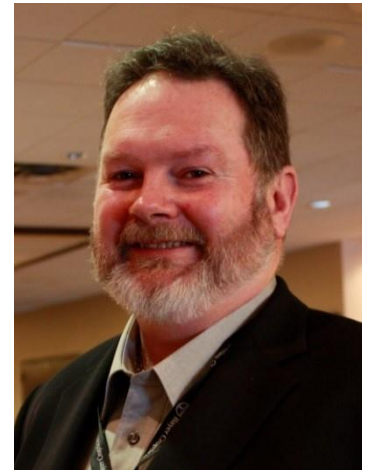
The Board meets face-to-face twice annually and holds regular conference calls. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/about-us/governance/>

### Board Chair and Vice-Chair

The CanAgPlus Board and CanadaGAP staff wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to retiring chair, Jack Bates, and to departing vice-chair Hugh Bowman. Both served a six-year term on the Board. Prior to that, both were involved in the CHC and CPMA committees responsible for program oversight and the establishment of CanAgPlus. After incorporation, Jack served as Board Chair for five years, and brought a wealth of industry knowledge and a strong, steady hand to the organization's leadership.

Hugh was the founding director of the corporation and a valued team player who brought unflagging energy and strategic vision to the program's direction.

The contributions of Jack and Hugh have been instrumental to the program's success, and both will be greatly missed.



The Board will elect a new chair and vice-chair following the 2018 AGM.



## Management Review

An annual management review of the program is held each June with senior management and representatives from the Board. During the management review, representatives 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
- provision of resources
- policies related to conflict of interest and confidentiality, among others.



## Stakeholder Advisory Committee

CanadaGAP has a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) that is appointed by the Board and whose role is to review requests for technical changes to program materials. The Committee meets face-to-face each summer and holds conference calls as needed. At the June 2018 meeting the Committee had another full agenda. CanadaGAP receives dozens of requests each year for changes to the food safety manuals, audit checklist or other technical documents. Each request is considered and researched by staff, and recommended changes are presented to the Committee for discussion and input. While commodity-specific representation on the committee continues to be important, a number of positions on the SAC are reserved for food safety specialists.

Nominations to the SAC are accepted annually, and appointments are made by the Board for one-, two- or three-year terms. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through the nomination process each summer.

## Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP is involved in a significant number of education and outreach activities. A particular focus this year has been to enhance awareness of the available tools and resources that CanadaGAP has produced to assist producers with program implementation.



The CanadaGAP website makes freely available a range of handouts, posters, training tools, and other communication materials to support employee training and improve understanding of food safety requirements. CanadaGAP has also developed a two-day introductory course to the program, which is being delivered by various training partners across the country. Further information is available at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/program/training-resources/>

In terms of communication activities, numerous communiques have been dispatched by CanadaGAP in 2018. For a listing of media coverage, visit the CanadaGAP website at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/media/articles/>

The table below identifies various events and presentations in which CanadaGAP participated in 2018:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Event / Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
January-December	GFSI Benchmarking Requirements and Primary Production Task Force meetings	Conference calls
January-December	GFSI Exam review calls	Webinars
January	Train-the-Auditor-Trainer Course	Longueuil, QC
February	Presentation at MAPAQ Journée horticole	Videoconference
March	Presentation and participation in Global Food Safety Conference, GFSI Task Force meetings	Tokyo, Japan
March	CanadaGAP booth at CHC AGM and presentation to Food Safety Committee	Ottawa, ON
March	Refresher training for Accreditation Body assessors	Webinar
March	Sobeys Food Safety Learning Session	Burlington, ON
March	Potato Sustainability Initiative (PSI) update training	Webinars
March	CPMA Food Safety Committee	Conference call
April	Internal Audit (CB)	Quebec City, QC
April	Agri-Food Subcommittee on Food Safety meeting	Ottawa, ON
April	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition AGM	Ottawa, ON
April	CPMA Convention and Trade Show	Vancouver, BC

May	Canadian Government Industry Meeting (CPMA)	Ottawa, ON
June	CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Board meetings	Ottawa, ON
June	Annual meeting of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies	Ottawa, ON
July	Annual meeting with American National Standards Institute	Conference call
July	Witness audits of CanadaGAP auditors in BC	British Columbia
July	CanadaGAP hosted JapanGAP visit and meetings	Ottawa, ON
September	CPMA Food Safety Committee semi-annual meeting	Conference call
October	GFSI Task Force and Board meetings	Greensboro, NC
October	Annual meeting with Standards Council of Canada	Ottawa, ON
November	Agri-Food Subcommittee on Food Safety meeting	Ottawa, ON
November	Canadian Government Industry Meeting (CPMA)	Ottawa, ON
December	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting	Ottawa, ON



## Program Participation

More than 3,100 producers are now participating in CanadaGAP. The table below shows year-over-year growth in the number of producers participating in the program. The growth rates below reflect net growth – i.e., they already account for departures from the program, which may be due to changes in a farming operation, retirement, voluntary termination of certification, etc.

## Year-over-Year Increase in CanadaGAP Participation

Year (Sept – Aug)	Number of producers	Increase	Growth Rate
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%

*Note: Errors in previously reported figures have been corrected for the 2018 Annual Report.*

### Participation Trends

The following participation trends are significant for 2018:

- Participation rates have been stable since 2016. While new participants continue to enrol in the program, a significant number of retirements and farm sales have also occurred, offsetting significant growth in enrolment figures.
- Participation rose slightly among producers in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and declined marginally in Manitoba. Among commodity groupings, moderate increases were seen in the Combined Vegetable sector.
- BC maintains the highest enrolment levels overall, representing 38% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies.
- Growth in Option D enrolments for repacking, wholesaling, and brokerage operations continues to increase, up 13% over last year.
- CanadaGAP continues to attract U.S. growers, many of whom are organized into groups to pursue food safety certification.
- Group certifications comprise 21% of all enrolments, while 25% of certified companies are enrolled in the four-year audit cycle.



- More than half (52%) of program participants are enrolled in Option C and undergo an annual audit.
- 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, 2018.

### 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 2018</b>	24%	27%	18%	20%	8%	3%	100%
<b>For comparison:</b>							
<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, and Group Management System audits)*

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	1589	1538	1390	1270	1037	1031	771

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

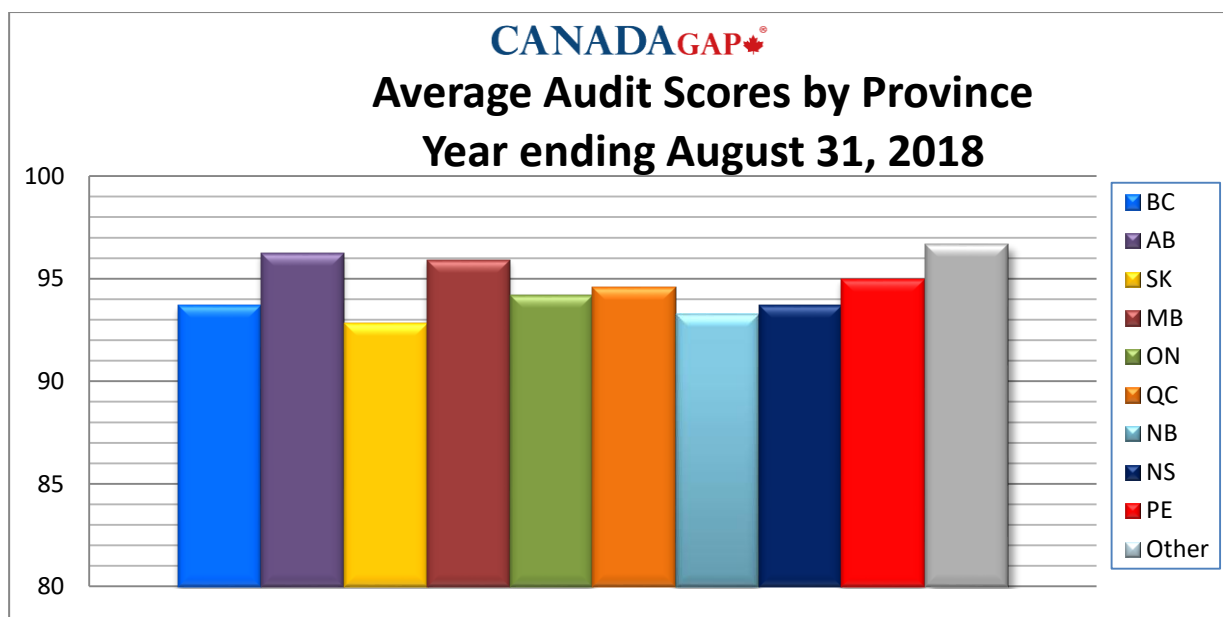
- In addition, approximately 100 farms that belong to groups are audited each year.

- *Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping*

<i>Crop Grouping</i>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Potato</b>	94.98	93.84	94.36	94.03	94.19	92.54	93.19
<b>Greenhouse</b>	96.36	95.55	95.98	96.63	92.40	94.80	95.16
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	93.75	93.97	93.20	91.92	89.19	92.71	88.99
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	94.61	93.97	94.41	94.40	91.76	92.43	90.35
<b>Small Fruit</b>	93.29	92.44	92.30	90.17	90.91	92.71	91.11
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	94.61	92.86	94.11	94.01	92.85	93.40	91.52
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>94.34</b>	93.24	94.04	92.84	92.70	92.81	91.65

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

- Overall, the average audit score of 94.34% is the highest ever average achieved by CanadaGAP-certified companies. **Congratulations to program participants for their ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving food safety in their operations.**
- Commodity-specific trends: Small but incremental improvements in average audit scores are occurring across all crop groupings.
- The graph below illustrates average audit scores by province:



## 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 2010. Data pertaining to 2018 random audits will be available in 2019.

### 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>
2010	93.85	95.21
2011	91.28	90.72
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

## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 44 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors (currently working for a Certification Body). This represents 14% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 22% 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	15	10	12	5	2	44
Percentage	34%	22%	28%	11%	5%	100%

Data current as at August 31, 2018

- **Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors**

*Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:*

	2018 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>2</sup>	2016	2015	2014	2013	Total since 2008
Number of people who completed CanadaGAP auditor training course	10	48	16	66	27	28	<b>311</b>
Number of people who passed the course	4	32	9	38	13	16	<b>201</b>
Percentage of people who passed the course	50% <sup>3</sup>	70% <sup>4</sup>	75% <sup>5</sup>	58%	48%	57%	<b>66%</b>
Number of auditor training sessions	2	7	4	6	3	5	<b>48</b>

<sup>1</sup> Exam are still ongoing from the two courses. These numbers are therefore not considered final or representative.

<sup>2</sup> Five courses have been completed at the time of reporting, with exams still ongoing from the other two courses; data is not yet complete. These numbers are therefore not considered final or representative.

<sup>3</sup> Of the 10 people who took the course in 2018, 2 were auditing the course so 50% of the participants who attempted the exam passed.

<sup>4</sup> Of the 48 people who took the course in 2017, 2 were auditing the course so 70% of participants who attempted the exam passed.

<sup>5</sup> Of the 16 people who took the course in 2016, 4 were only auditing the course so 75% of participants who attempted the exam passed.



- **CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Training and Testing**

- Auditor Refresher Testing, introduced in 2014, is repeated every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements. At the end of 2016, CanadaGAP administered auditor refresher training webinars in conjunction with the testing. All active auditors, as well as all interested inactive auditors, attended the webinar and attempted the exam. 81% of CanadaGAP active auditors passed the 2016 exam. Seven auditors who were unsuccessful

at both exam attempts retook the auditor training course and passed the exam.

- For 2018, the CanadaGAP Technical Manager will be conducting mandatory assessments for all active auditors, as well as all interested inactive auditors. The assessments will be carried out in English from November 2018 to January 2019. The auditor refresher assessments in French will be postponed to 2019. The assessments will take place over the phone with each auditor individually and will consist of a series of questions to evaluate the auditor's understanding.

## Certification Bodies

CanadaGAP has three licensed certification bodies with whom auditors are employed or contracted directly. These auditing firms are approved to offer CanadaGAP audits:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- NSF Canada Ag (including sub-contractor Gestion Qualiterra in Quebec)
- SGS Canada



## Integrity Programme to Oversee Certification Bodies

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, monitored and reported on annually
- Certification body office audits encompassing all service providers over a 5-year cycle (NSF: 2014, SGS: 2015, Gestion Qualiterra: 2016; BNQ: 2018; NSF planned for 2019)
- Audit report spot checks (at least one per auditor each year)
- CanadaGAP participation on calls where auditors receive updates and are calibrated to program requirements and scoring. This gives CanadaGAP staff an opportunity 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 (2012-BC and Alberta; 2013-Atlantic; 2014-Manitoba and Ontario; 2015-Quebec; 2016- Quebec; 2017- Ontario; 2018-BC; 2019-Atlantic and Alberta planned)
- Auditor Refresher Testing is repeated every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.



## What's Ahead for 2019?

- Introduction of GFSI Knowledge Exam for new and current CanadaGAP auditors
- Coming into force of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* on January 15, 2019
- Maintenance of GFSI and Government Recognition, including annual review and assessment
- Continued promotion of CanadaGAP inside and outside of Canada.

Report prepared by

Heather Gale, Executive Director  
CanadaGAP Program, CanAgPlus

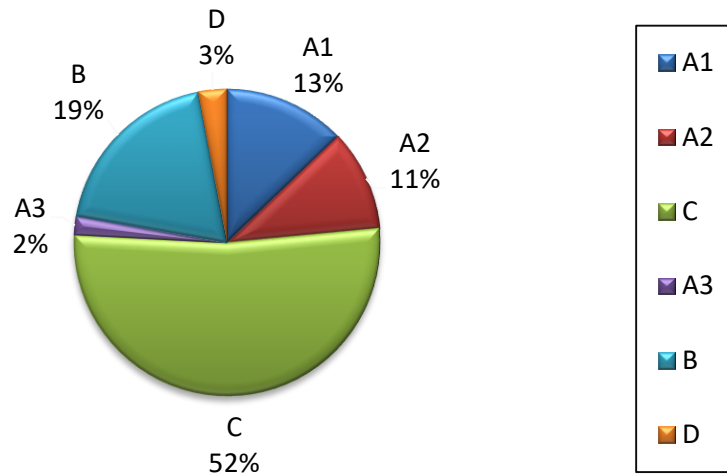


# CanadaGAP

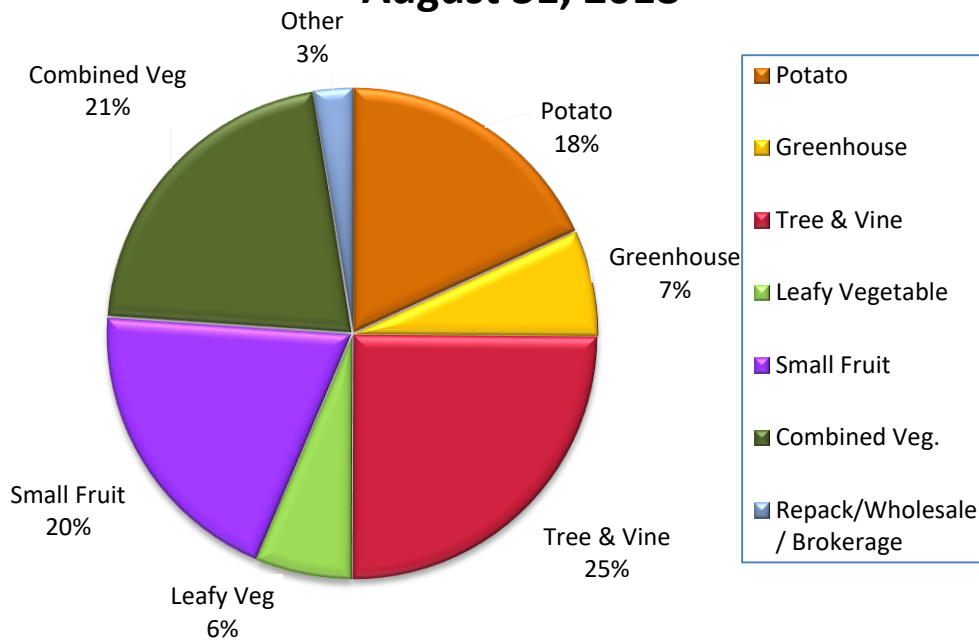
## Program Uptake

### Statistics

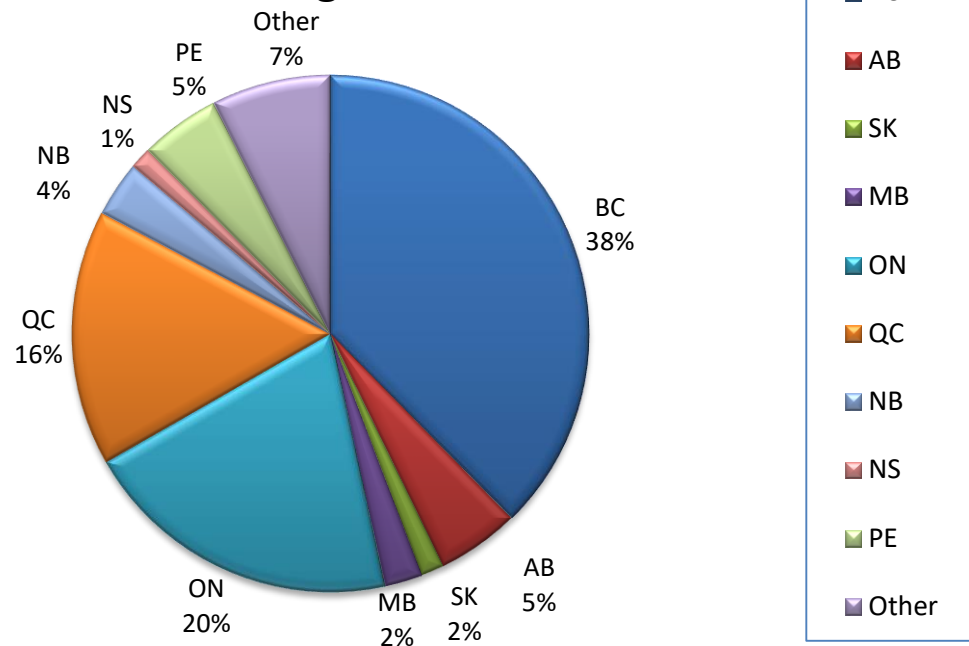
### Participation by certification option August 31, 2018



### Proportion of CanadaGAP participants represented by crop grouping August 31, 2018



## Operations Enrolled by Province August 31, 2018



## Commodity by Province – August 31, 2018

