

# 2020 Annual Report



**CANADAGAP**®

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## CanadaGAP Program

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## Annual Report 2020

### 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 officially launched in September 2008 with the enrolment of five hundred potato growers, and has grown to over 3,200 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 fully recognized by the Canadian Government and has been benchmarked to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* to ensure 100% alignment with 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 3,200 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 2020

With the arrival of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic early in the year, 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to the food industry globally and within Canada. As in all sectors, the regular course of business for fresh produce operations and food safety programs was profoundly disrupted. The industry has risen to the challenge and shown great resilience and flexibility in these uncertain and difficult times. CanadaGAP and its partner Certification Bodies have also worked hard to be responsive and creative in adapting to the shifting landscape. Some of the program adjustments that have been required over the course of 2020 include:

- Postponement of audits and extensions of CanadaGAP certificates for up to six months, when audits could not proceed as planned.
- Development and implementation of new procedures to allow for CanadaGAP audits to be performed using partially remote auditing methods, to reduce the auditor's time on-site.
- Extensive communications with all stakeholders, including program participants, producer organization representatives, auditors and certification bodies, buyers and customers in the retail, processing and food service sectors, and all levels of government.
- Rescheduling of meetings and events to an online format.
- Ongoing updates to a dedicated COVID-19 webpage on the CanadaGAP website, focused on helping CanadaGAP program participants access timely and helpful resources to navigate the dynamic demands of adjusting to COVID-19 within their operations.

Alongside the challenges of enabling and maintaining a focus on the safe production and handling of fresh fruits and vegetables during the pandemic, CanadaGAP was successful in undertaking the following activities over the course of the past year:

- **Re-benchmarking to GFSI – in progress:** CanadaGAP has been benchmarked and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) since 2010. To maintain recognition, CanadaGAP undertook re-benchmarking to GFSI Version 2020 during the summer months. While re-benchmarking activities are not yet complete, GFSI recognition remains a priority for the program, as it is crucial to securing support for CanadaGAP certification from retailers, processors and food service customers.
- **Maintaining Government Recognition:** CanadaGAP first received full Government Recognition in 2017 under the Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program. To maintain government recognition, CanadaGAP must continue to demonstrate sound management of the certification system, align with all applicable regulatory requirements, and receive approval from CFIA for any proposed changes to the program. In August 2020, CanadaGAP submitted materials as required for CFIA to complete their annual review of changes prior to publication of the next version of the CanadaGAP Program. CanadaGAP anticipates publishing updates to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals (Version 9.0) in December 2020, with an implementation date for CanadaGAP audits effective April 1, 2021. The advance publication of new Lot Code requirements will assist operations in complying with CFIA's planned enforcement of corresponding Lot Code requirements in the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* beginning on January 15, 2021.

- **Updates to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals:** Version 8.0 of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals was released in January 2020, and took effect on April 1, 2020. As in previous years, a number of changes to the manuals were driven by new GFSI Benchmarking Requirements.
- **Changes to CanadaGAP Program Scope:** Driven by changing risk profiles and emerging research, several technical decisions were implemented in 2020 with respect to crops and activities that are eligible for CanadaGAP certification. In 2020, aquaponics and microgreens were removed from the scope of the CanadaGAP program for production, packing and storage activities. Meanwhile, the program scope was expanded to include all commodities grown in non-controlled environments (e.g., high and low tunnels).
- **New Certification Body:** Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI) was licensed by CanAgPlus in July 2020 as the newest certification body offering CanadaGAP audits in Canada (excluding Quebec) and the United States. Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. has a demonstrated history of providing value-added food safety certifications to clients, with a track record of rigour and consistency throughout the certification audit process. PJRFSI joined NSF Canada Ag and Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) in the list of available certification bodies for CanadaGAP.
- **Responsive/electronic documentation solutions:** The CanadaGAP Program has made efforts in recent years to respond to program participants requesting solutions to challenges related to documentation and record-keeping. We have increased our partnerships with interested affiliate organizations who have developed proprietary software for record-keeping, a fillable Word version of the manuals, and translation of the CanadaGAP template forms in various languages. For several years now we have made the full manuals available in Spanish as a resource. In 2020 CanadaGAP also made the food safety manuals and the self-assessment checklist available in a fillable PDF format. CanadaGAP is in the process of surveying program participants to determine if the resources provided directly by CanadaGAP have been useful to users.



## 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 November/December. For this first time, in 2019 the CanAgPlus AGM took to the road, with an excellent turnout of members in Charlottetown, PEI on November 28, 2019. An interactive Q&A Town Hall-style session and a fabulous local dinner with members were held immediately following the AGM. We thank all participants and our valued meeting sponsors who helped to make this event possible:



For the 2020 AGM, the meeting will be held entirely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting is scheduled for December 2. Further details are posted on the CanadaGAP website.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets face-to-face twice annually, under normal circumstances, and holds regular conference calls. The Board is comprised of eight volunteer directors, who serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. The Board welcomed two new directors at the 2019 AGM: Beth Pattillo (Noggins Corner Farm) and Ian McDonell. Stephanie Lariviere (Erie James Ltd.) was re-elected to the Chair for a second term, and Mike Furi (The Grocery People) was selected as Board Vice-chair for 2020. Four director positions are available to aspiring candidates at the 2020 AGM. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/>

A proposal is being presented to members at this year's AGM to update the corporate by-laws. The Board of Directors is recommending that revisions be made to address the composition of the CanAgPlus Board. CanAgPlus has matured since its founding by the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) in 2012. With the support of its two founding organizations, the Board is recommending to members that Board composition focus on securing an appropriate ratio of representatives from each of its stakeholder groups (producer, packer, repacker/wholesaler/brokerage, customers, etc.) and that members be fully empowered to elect their own Board of Directors, rather than requiring approval from CHC and CPMA after elections occur.



## Management Review

An annual management review of the program is held each summer with senior management and representatives from the Board. 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.



## Stakeholder Advisory Committee

For a number of years, CanadaGAP has had a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) appointed by the Board. The Committee's role is to review requests for technical changes to program materials. CanadaGAP receives dozens of requests each year for changes to the food safety manuals, audit checklist, and other technical documents. Each request is considered and researched by staff, and recommended changes are presented to the Committee for discussion and input. The Committee usually meets face-to-face each summer, and holds conference calls as needed. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the July 2020 meeting was held virtually for the first time, with an abbreviated agenda.

The CanAgPlus Board will be introducing some changes to the Committee for 2021. Along with a name change (the "Stakeholder Advisory Committee" becomes the "Technical Advisory Committee"), some changes to the Committee's composition and Terms of Reference are being implemented. The Board will strive to appoint members who are representative of the various crop groupings within CanadaGAP's scope, but given the Committee's role, the primary criteria for members is food safety knowledge, education and technical expertise. Consideration will be given to representatives with expertise in various types of production, storage, packing, repacking and wholesale, as well as other relevant expertise (e.g., industry experience). The size of the Committee will be 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.

Nominations to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are accepted annually, and appointments are made by the Board for one- or two-year terms. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through the public nominations process. The list of current SAC members is published on the [CanadaGAP website](#).



## Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP is involved in a significant number of education and outreach activities. Obviously, with the global pandemic of 2020, opportunities to represent the program outside of virtual meetings were limited this year. Nevertheless, CanadaGAP was able to engage in a number of important ongoing initiatives. The table below provides a summary of these activities.

Month	Event / Topic	Location
January-February	GFSI Exam Review calls	Conference calls
January- December	GFSI Leafy Greens Technical Working Group	Conference calls
January-February	GFSI Data Sharing Working Group	Meeting and conference call
January	CanadaGAP Train-the-Auditor-Trainer Refresher Exam Review	Conference calls
January	CanadaGAP Webinar for Certification Bodies	Webinar
February	ISO/CASCO JWG36 meetings on ISO 22003-2	Zoom calls
February	MAPAQ Food Safety Webinar	Webinar
February	Agri-Food Subcommittee on Food Safety	Conference call
February	Global Food Safety Conference, GFSI Board and technical meetings	Seattle
February-November	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Board	Conference calls
March	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (private)	BC
March	CHC AGM and Food Safety Committee meeting	Ottawa
March	NSF Auditor Calibration sessions	Webinars
March-December	National Critical Infrastructure Cross-Sector Forum	Conference calls
March-December	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Roundtable Calls (COVID-19)	Conference calls
April	Gestion Qualiterra Auditor Calibration	Conference call
April	CPMA COVID Update Calls	Conference calls
May	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (private)	Online

May	BNQ Auditor Calibration	Webinar
May	ISO/CASCO JWG36 meetings on ISO 22003-2	Zoom calls
May	CanadaGAP Webinar for Accreditation Bodies	Webinar
May	North American Produce Safety Working Group	Zoom call
May	CPMA Annual General Meeting	Webinar
May	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition AGM	Zoom call
May	IAF Food Group presentation	Zoom call
May	International Federation for Produce Standards Food Safety Committee	Conference call
June-November	GFSI Calls for Certification Programme Owners	Zoom calls
June	CPMA Food Safety Committee meeting	Conference call
June	FDA COVID-19 Briefing for Produce Industry Stakeholders	Webinar
June	Annual technical meeting of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies	GoToMeeting
June	Annual Performance Review Meetings with CBs	GoToMeeting
June	CPMA Food Safety, Regulatory and Quality Assurance Online Workshop	Webinar
June	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (private)	Online
June-July	Center for Produce Safety 2020 Research Symposium	Webinars
July	CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee	GoToMeeting
July	CanadaGAP Management Review	GoToMeeting
July, November	IAF Food Group Meetings	Webinars
July-August	GFSI Re-benchmarking (remote review)	Zoom calls
July-October	CanadaGAP Training Calls for PJRFSI	GoToMeeting
August	Annual meeting with American National Standards Institute	Conference call
August	Standards Council of Canada call on ISO 22003-2	Conference call



September, October	ISO/CASCO JWG36 meetings on ISO 22003-2	Zoom calls
September	International Federation for Produce Standards Food Safety Committee	Conference call
October-November	Program Participant Survey on Spanish Manuals and Fillable PDFs	Survey Monkey
October	CPMA Food Safety Committee calls (Romaine)	Conference calls
October-December	GFSI Auditor Training and Continuous Professional Development Task Group	Zoom calls
October-December	GFSI Task Group on Key Performance Indicators for Certification Programme owners	Zoom calls
October	CFIA Industry Relations webinar with Coalition members	Webinar
November	Annual meeting with Standards Council of Canada	GoToMeeting
November	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (Food Safety Solutions)	Online
November	Perry Johnson Webinar on CanadaGAP	Webinar
December	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting and Board meetings	GoToMeeting
Nov-December	CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Exam	Online
December	Perry Johnson Annual Auditor Training (presentation)	Webinar

### Program Participant Survey

Every three years, CanadaGAP surveys program participants on various aspects of program operations. The focus of the 2019 program participant survey was on issues related to auditing and communications. Every program participant received the short survey, which was available online or as a paper copy to be returned to the CanadaGAP office. The survey remained open from November 2019 until the summer of 2020, and most responses were received electronically (99 English, 32 French total).



Unfortunately, the response rate was very low, with fewer than 5% of recipients responding to the survey. This level of interest makes it difficult to draw conclusions or derive any trends from the response. It may also suggest that a large number of program participants have no opinion, or no particular concerns they want to flag. Nevertheless, a sampling of the most interesting results is included below.

### Audit-related questions:

- 1) 83% of program participants agreed completely or mostly with the findings of their auditor. Six per cent were neutral, and 12% mostly or completely disagreed with the audit findings.
  - When asked to provide information about how they responded to a disagreement with the auditor's findings, 31% did nothing, whereas 69% contacted someone within the audit process (auditor, Certification Body, or CanadaGAP).
  - When asked why they did nothing, respondents cited the following sampling of reasons:
    - "No time to fight about small things."
    - "Everything was justified."
    - "I was satisfied with the evaluation."
    - "Too angry."
    - "The impact was minimal on the result of the audit."
    - "I'm very satisfied with our last audit."
    - "CanadaGAP and the farmer should work together to bring the product to the market which is safe for consumption ... should stop the pass and fail and do more in helping and educating the farmer."
    - "It's already a time-consuming process."
    - "Wasn't sure if it would do more harm than good."
    - "Did not realize there was an opportunity to communicate a disagreement. Would be afraid to do so fearing repercussions on future audits."
    - "The auditors provide good knowledge and help you find the relevant section within the manual."
- 2) When provided with a list of the commonly heard concerns (e.g., auditor calibration, availability, and behaviour; certificate expiring; program participants not fully understanding the requirements, etc.), a majority (64%) responded that they had not encountered these issues.
  - Of the remaining respondents who did identify a problem, 18% of program participants indicated not fully understanding a requirement prior to the audit, but only 5% said requirements were still unclear after the audit.
  - 17% of program participant said that an auditor scored things differently than previous auditors. While it is not surprising to find some variation among auditors, calibration is an ongoing challenge that CanadaGAP and our Certification Bodies strive to address with activities such as annual auditor calibration calls, refresher training and testing, close monitoring of auditor performance, review of audit reports and feedback to auditors on scoring and interpretation, auditor training notes on salient topics, etc.
  - When program participants were asked what they did to address their concerns, 35% did nothing, 24% contacted the CB, 21% contacted someone else, and 14% contacted CanadaGAP directly. None elected to file an appeal of their audit findings with the CB.



### Communication questions:

- When program participants were asked how they accessed information about CanadaGAP, only one respondent identified that their only recourse was to “ask someone else” when they wanted to receive information on the program. Among approximately 120 respondents:
  - 65% read the communiques
  - 48% used the FAQs on the website
  - 44% used the ‘search’ function of the website
  - 58% also asked someone else (consultant, provincial association, neighbour, etc.)
  - 6% listed ‘other’ (e.g. contact CanadaGAP directly)
- Of those participants who provided feedback on the content and frequency of communiq  s, 94% of respondents regularly read the communiques. The feedback was mostly positive or neutral, although 12% of respondents felt that communiq  s were ‘too long’.

We will be following up throughout the winter with survey respondents who identified specific issues and provided their identifying information to ensure that those issues are addressed.

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

### CanadaGAP Website

The CanadaGAP website makes freely available a range of handouts, posters, training tools, and other communication materials to support operator and employee training and improve understanding of food safety requirements. CanadaGAP also makes available to training delivery partners across the country a two-day introductory course called ‘Understanding the CanadaGAP Program’. Further information is available at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/program/training-resources/> or by contacting the CanadaGAP office.

### Stakeholder Communication

CanadaGAP communicates frequently with program participants and other stakeholders through regular communiques, published at: <https://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.

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



## Program Participation

Over 3,200 producers are 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%
2018-2019	3185	29	1%
2019-2020	3233	48	2%

### Participation Trends

The following participation trends are noteworthy for 2020:

- Participation in 2020 rose most markedly among producers in Ontario and the United States.
- Among commodity groupings, a small increase in participation was seen in the Field Vegetable industry, with a slight proportional drop in participation from the Greenhouse, Potato and Small Fruit sectors.
- BC continues to maintain the highest enrolment levels overall, at 36% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies.

- Growth in Option D enrolments for repacking, wholesaling, and brokerage operations continues to increase, now representing 5% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies. Close to 120 program participants are enrolled in Option D.
- Group certifications comprise nearly 20% of all enrolments, while 23% of certified companies are enrolled in the four-year audit cycle. The number of program participants moving to an annual audit under Option C continues to increase. Option C now includes 58% of all participants, up 5% from 2019.
- 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, 2020.





## 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 2020</b>	24%	30	17	18	6	5	100%
<b>For comparison:</b>							
<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, and Group Management System audits)*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	1748	1650	1589	1538	1390	1270	1037

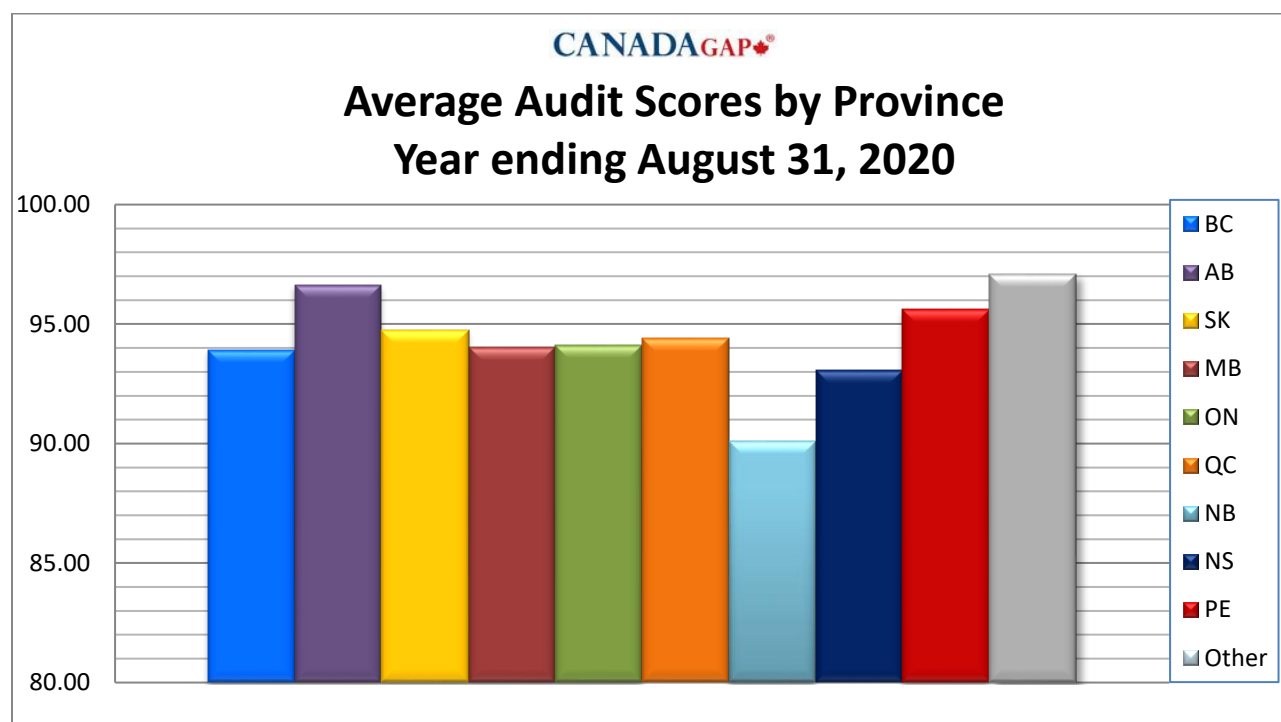
Reporting period from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued

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

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

<i>Crop Grouping</i>	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Potato</b>	94.59	94.46	94.98	93.84	94.36	94.03	94.19
<b>Greenhouse</b>	95.66	96.63	96.36	95.55	95.98	96.63	92.40
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	93.76	92.84	93.75	93.97	93.20	91.92	89.19
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	93.78	93.82	94.61	93.97	94.41	94.40	91.76
<b>Small Fruit</b>	94.25	92.92	93.29	92.44	92.30	90.17	90.91
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	94.38	94.50	94.61	92.86	94.11	94.01	92.85
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>94.28</b>	93.98	94.34	93.24	94.04	92.84	92.70

Overall, the average audit score of 94.28% is consistent with the average over the last five years. No significant changes were notable across commodity groups in 2020. 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 2012. Interestingly, for the last three years, operations randomly selected for an audit have, on average, achieved slightly higher scores than Option A1/A2 operations undergoing their regularly scheduled audit. Data pertaining to 2020 random audits will be available in 2021.

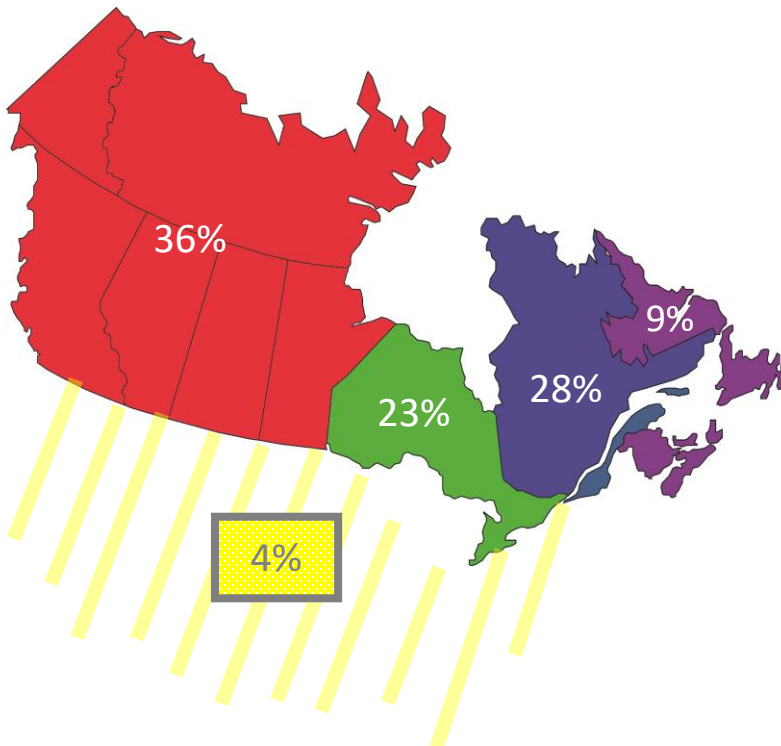
## CanadaGAP Random Audit Results for Option A1 and A2

<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

## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 53 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 23% of those who have passed the course.

*Auditors by region:*



# of auditors		Percentage
19	West	36%
12	Ontario	23%
15	Quebec	28%
5	Atlantic	9%
2	U.S.	4%
53	Total	100%

Data current as of August 31, 2020

## Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors

### *Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:*

	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	Total since 2008
Number of people who completed CanadaGAP auditor training course	25	25	19	48	16	66	370
Number of people who passed the course	7	17	10	32	9	38	232
Percentage of people who passed the course	44% <sup>2</sup>	77% <sup>3</sup>	65% <sup>4</sup>	70% <sup>5</sup>	75% <sup>6</sup>	58%	67%
Number of auditor training sessions	4	6	3	7	4	6	59

<sup>1</sup> Exams are still ongoing for one course. These numbers are therefore not considered final or representative.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 25 people who took the course so far in 2020, 9 were auditing the course. To date, 44% of the participants who attempted the exam have passed.

<sup>3</sup> Of the 25 people who took the course in 2019, 3 were auditing the course. Therefore, 77% of the participants who attempted the exam passed.

<sup>4</sup> Of the 19 people who took the course in 2018, 2 were auditing the course. Therefore, 59% of the participants who attempted the exam passed.

<sup>5</sup> Of the 48 people who took the course in 2017, 2 were auditing the course. Therefore, 70% of participants who attempted the exam passed.

<sup>6</sup> Of the 16 people who took the course in 2016, 4 were auditing the course. Therefore, 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.

In 2019, the CanadaGAP Technical Manager and Technical Support Coordinator conducted mandatory assessments in French for all active auditors in Quebec, as well as with interested inactive auditors. The auditor refresher assessment calls for English-speaking auditors took place in 2018. The assessments took place over the phone with each auditor individually and consisted of a series of questions to evaluate the auditor's understanding. Four English-speaking auditors (in 2018) and one French-speaking auditor (in 2019) had follow-up work and were required to review additional resources, etc. after their assessments.

The next round of refresher testing for all auditors is scheduled to start in November 2020.

## Certification Bodies

CanadaGAP was pleased to welcome a third licensed certification body to the program in July 2020: Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.

CanadaGAP program participants are now served by the following three auditing firms approved to offer CanadaGAP audits:

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



CanadaGAP auditors are employed or contracted directly by the certification body (CB), 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 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: 2019)
- 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 (2012-BC and Alberta; 2013-Atlantic; 2014-Manitoba and Ontario; 2015-Quebec; 2016- Quebec; 2017- Ontario; 2018-BC; 2019-BC and Ontario). Other than one witness audit conducted in June 2020, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions it was decided to postpone the CanadaGAP witness audits that were planned this year. If conditions permit, CanadaGAP witness audits will resume during the 2021 season.



- 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 2021?

- Updated CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals (Version 9.0) will be published in December 2020, with implementation of new requirements effective April 1, 2021
- Relaxation of certain GFSI technical requirements for operations enrolled in CanadaGAP certification options A1 and A2 will be announced in December 2020, in conjunction with the release of the next version of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals – **stay tuned!**
- Conclude GFSI re-benchmarking to Version 2020
- Engagement in GFSI technical working groups for Leafy Greens and various “Race to the Top” initiatives will be maintained. CanadaGAP is a member of several task groups, including one that is developing Auditor Training benchmarking requirements and expectations for continuous professional development, and another that is addressing Key Performance Indicators for monitoring of Certification Bodies and Certification Programme Owners.
- Complete refresher testing for CanadaGAP auditors
- CanadaGAP will continue its active participation in the development of the new ISO/IEC 22003-2 standard, which could have a significant impact in future on CanadaGAP and its Certification Bodies

## Report prepared by

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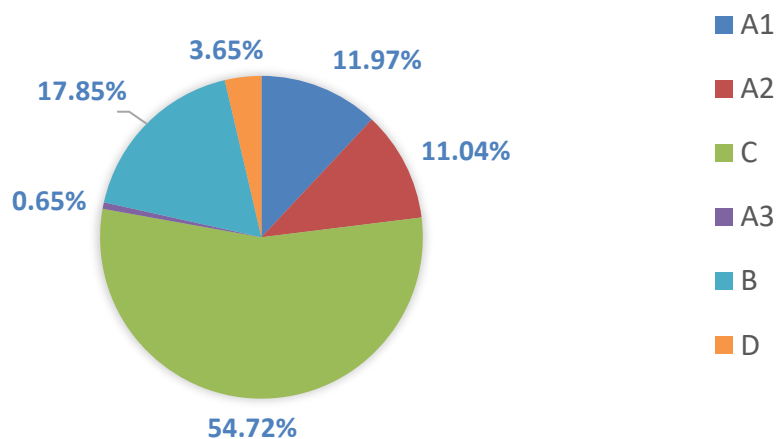
# CanadaGAP

## Program Uptake

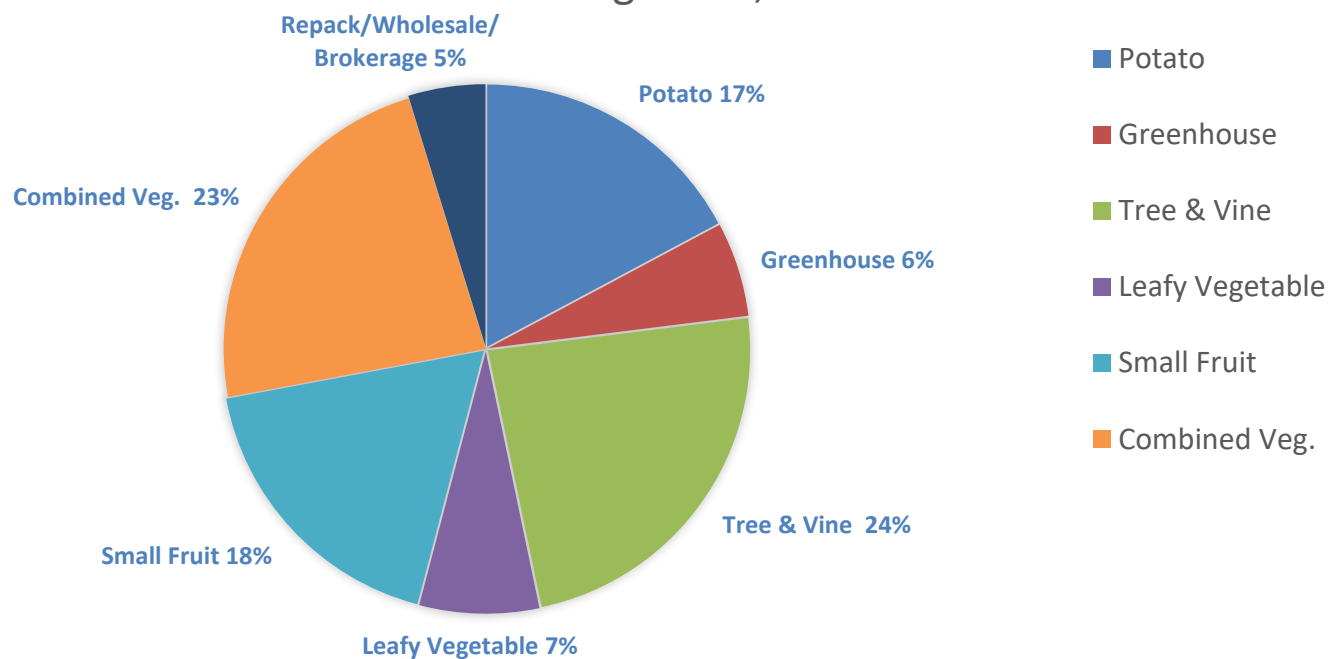
## Statistics



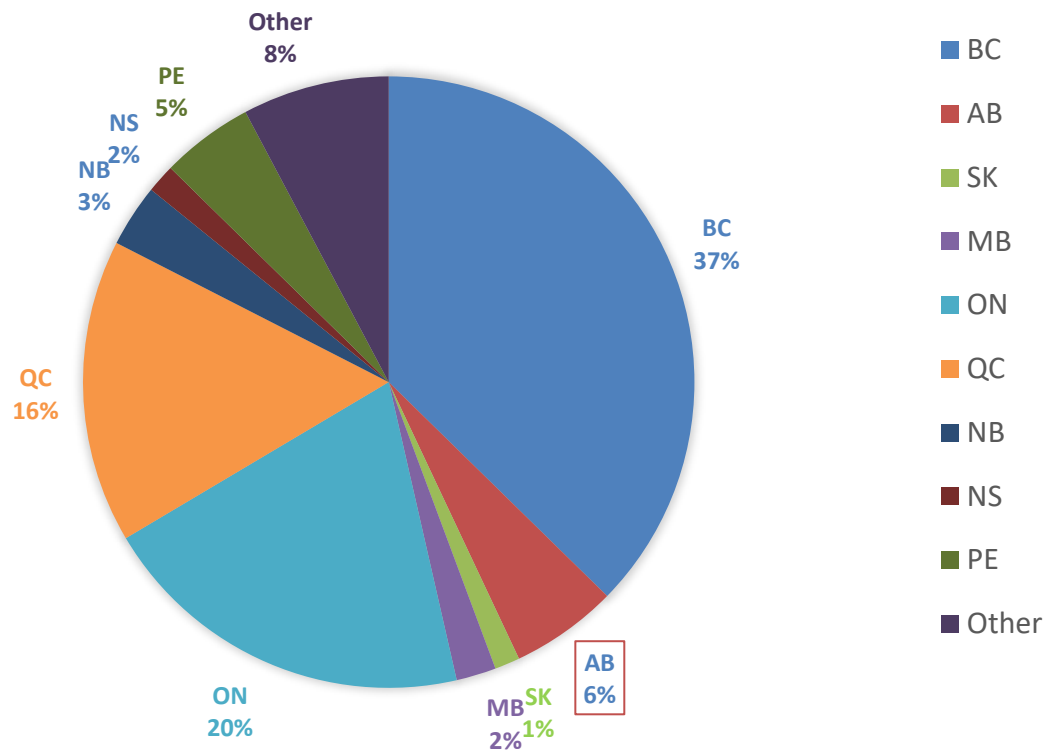
## Participation by Option Aug 31, 2020



## Proportion of CanadaGAP Participants Represented by Crop Grouping August 31, 2020



## Operations Enrolled by Province Aug 31, 2020



## Commodity by Province - August 31, 2020

