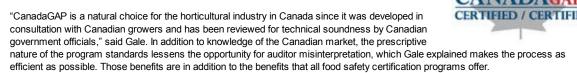


CanadaGAP 'natural choice' for Canadian growers

While CanadaGAP, a food safety program benchmarked by the Global Food Safety Initiative, is as rigorous and sound as similar food safety certification programs, the way the program was developed makes it a good choice for Canadian growers, noted Heather Gale, executive director of the CanadaGAP program.



"Like other internationally recognized food safety programs, CanadaGAP has been benchmarked by the GFSI," noted Gale. "This puts CanadaGAP in the same category as other GFSI-benchmarked food safety programs such as PrimusGFS, GLOBALG.A.P. and S.Q.F." When it comes to choosing which program to go with, growers must consider customer demands and requirements, and while Gale noted that a customer who accepts certification to any GFSI-recognized program would not distinguish between CanadaGAP and one of the other recognized schemes, CanadaGAP has some advantages, like the above-mentioned Canadian focus.

"We are small. This can be a benefit because we can provide close oversight of our limited auditor pool and smaller number of certification bodies, which can help maintain and improve auditor competency. Every year we spot check audit reports from all auditors, and over a 5-year cycle we conduct witness audits of every auditor," said Gale. "Because we're small, we can be hands-on."

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