

## Food Safety for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Canadian fruits and vegetables have always been recognized for their high level of safety and for their positive impact on the health of consumers. Recent cases of food-borne illnesses have increased consumer awareness of the potential for contamination of produce. In order to reassure buyers, maintain a high level of consumer confidence and remain competitive in an international marketplace, Canadian suppliers of fresh produce must ensure their operations are meeting food safety standards.

### About the CanadaGAP Program

CanadaGAP<sup>®</sup> is a national, voluntary food safety program that has received full Canadian Government Recognition. It consists of standards and a certification system for the safe production, handling and brokerage of fresh fruits and vegetables. Two manuals, one specific to greenhouse operations, 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) in their fruit and vegetable production, packing and storage operations, and for repackers and wholesalers implementing Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and HACCP programs. The program is also designed for fresh produce brokers implementing best practices in supplier management and product traceability.

### About Us

CanadaGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) is an industry-led food safety program for fresh fruits and vegetables. The program is operated by a not-for-profit corporation called CanAgPlus, founded by the Canadian Horticultural Council and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association.

*CanadaGAP<sup>®</sup> is a program developed in Canada to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for fruit and vegetable suppliers.*

### CanadaGAP Program Certification

CanadaGAP certification is available to fresh fruit and vegetable suppliers who need to demonstrate to their customers that they are following the CanadaGAP manuals. Program participants are required to pass a third party audit specifically based on the manuals. Auditing and certification is outsourced to separate, internationally-accredited Certification Bodies, who are responsible for review of the audit results and certification decisions.

### International Benchmarking

CanadaGAP certification options B, C and D are formally recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). CanadaGAP-certified companies have the benefit of using a made-in-Canada program to meet the food safety requirements of the international marketplace.

### Contact Us

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