

CanadaGAP Checklist for April 2024

Prepared for the Ontario Apple Growers

- **File all of your records from your 2023 CanadaGAP program**
 - Double check that all of last year's records were signed-off
 - Records must be kept for 2 years for certification option C and 4 years for certification options A1 and A2

- **Make sure your CanadaGAP binder is up-to-date with Version 10.0**
 - All the necessary manuals, forms and appendices can be found on the CanadaGAP website
 - The CanadaGAP website highlights the revisions from version 9.0 to version 10.0. You can either print off the entire manual or you can update your existing manual by only printing the pages that have been amended. If you choose to simply update your existing manual be sure to make a clear note on the title page indicating that the manual meets the requirements of version 10.0.

- **Complete the Operation Information on pages xxxviii-xxxix of the CanadaGAP Manual**
 - Pay close attention to the date you assign as your annual operation start date: nothing for the 2024 growing season should have happened prior to this date (no spraying, fertilizing, planting, etc.). The water sample mentioned below should be taken after this date but before first use.

- **Collect a water sample from every water source that you plan on using for equipment cleaning or handwashing**
 - The results must show 0 E.coli bacteria per 100 mL and 0 Total Coliform bacteria per 100 mL
 - This water sample should be taken before you begin using that water for handwashing or cleaning any production site equipment, including sprayers and tractors
 - This sample cannot be taken any more than 60 days in advance of using the water
 - Improper/insufficient water samples can be an automatic failure

- **Calibrate your airblast sprayer(s) and record it on CanadaGAP Form I**
 - Make detailed notes on how you calibrated each sprayer, the results you achieved, and any adjustments you made. Auditors will likely ask to see these notes.
 - The date of this calibration should be prior to your first pesticide application of the season

- **Calibrate your fertilizer spreader and record it on CanadaGAP Form I**
 - Make detailed notes on how you calibrated the spreader, the results you achieved, and any adjustments you made. Auditors may ask to see these notes.

- **Verify the accuracy of any scales you are using for crop protection products and record it on CanadaGAP Form I**
- **Perform an assessment of each production site (orchard) using CanadaGAP Form V**
 - This needs to be done at the start of the growing season
 - Complete a separate Form V for each orchard
- **Keep accurate records of all pesticide applications using CanadaGAP Form H1**
 - Records should also include any surfactants used
 - Not recording an application is an automatic failure
 - You can only apply agricultural products that are registered in Canada for apples. The application of an unregistered chemical is an automatic failure. Keep a close eye on changes to registrations.
 - Product labels must be followed. Make sure you are following the current label as it may differ from the actual label on your product. Refer to the following website for labels: <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>
- **Keep signed copies of all your pesticide receipts**
 - Your signature indicates that you received the product you purchased, the containers were undamaged and the labels were clear & legible. You will need to print off and sign any receipts that you receive electronically.
- **Decide if you are exporting your fruit this season and plan your pesticide applications accordingly**
 - Approach your packing line and ask for a letter that will confirm whether or not your fruit will be exported and what maximum residue levels (MRL's) or pre-harvest intervals (PHI's) you should be following. Keep a copy of this letter in your CanadaGAP binder.
- **Keep accurate records of all fertilizer applications (ground and foliar) using CanadaGAP Form H2**
 - This form asks for a lot number however in the absence of a lot number the fertilizer receipt number, bill of lading number or batch ticket number could be entered instead
- **Keep signed copies of all of your fertilizer receipts**
- **Keep accurate records of all manure, compost, and compost tea applications using CanadaGAP Form H2**
 - Do not apply manure within 120 days of harvest. Incomplete manure application records or harvesting before the 120 period has elapsed are both automatic failures.
 - Manure cannot be stored in the orchard or near water sources, buildings, equipment, harvested/stored apples, etc.

- Obtain a letter of assurance for any compost used
- **Keep accurate records of all soil amendments using CanadaGAP Form H2**
 - Gypsum and lime are both considered to be soil amendments
 - Keep signed copies of all your soil amendment receipts
- **Do not apply sewage sludge/municipal biosolids to any orchard that you intend to harvest from this season or on any field you intend to put orchard on in the future**
 - Sewage sludge applied in 2024 is an automatic failure. Sewage sludge applications made in previous years would lower your audit score.
- **Clean your water storage tank or take a water sample from it**
 - This applies to all overhead tanks that are used to store spray water or irrigation water
 - The tank should be cleaned once a year, use CanadaGAP Appendix H as a guideline, record the cleaning on CanadaGAP Form I
OR
 - Collect a water sample from this tank and have it tested for E.coli and coliform. This water does not have to be potable but it does have to show as having less than 100 E.coli bacteria per 100 mL and less than 1,000 Total Coliform bacteria per 100 mL
 - The tank cleaning or water sampling must be conducted before the tank is used for the first time this season

NOTE: throughout these checklists there are references to the CanadaGAP Forms. These forms can be downloaded off the CanadaGAP website - www.canadagap.ca.

These forms can also be generated in Croptracker - <https://www.croptracker.com/>.

Growers can also use their own custom forms in lieu of CanadaGAP Forms however these custom forms must contain all the necessary information outlined on the CanadaGAP Forms.

DISCLAIMER: These checklists are only for the growing, harvesting and storage of apples. Operations involved in fluming, packing, brokerage, wholesaling or in the production of other crops may need to meet additional criteria not mentioned in the checklists. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy but ultimately the CanadaGAP Manual for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (v 10.0) is the reference for your on-farm food safety program and audit.