

CanadaGAP Checklist for May 2024

Prepared for the Ontario Apple Growers

- **Ensure that all pesticide applicators have valid certificates**
 - All pesticide applications must be made by someone with a valid Grower Pesticide Safety Course Certificate or a valid Trained Assistant Certificate.

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

- **Keep accurate records of all herbicide applications using CanadaGAP Form H1**
 - You may want to use a separate H1 form to record your herbicide applications so an auditor can't confuse them with regular pesticide applications
 - Watch the pre-harvest intervals (PHI's) for your herbicides. Some herbicides have surprisingly long PHI's.

- **If planting new trees this year be sure to keep all your tree receipts**
 - Sign the receipts to prove that you received the product you purchased
 - Keep any inspection documents you may have from the nursery or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 - If you are growing any genetically modified apples (i.e. Arctic apples) keep a copy of the Health Canada Letter of No-Objection

- **Have someone inspect the washroom facilities (including portable toilets) each week and record it on CanadaGAP Form J**
 - Depending on the auditor they may want to see these records for the entire season and not just harvest
 - If you are relying on your portable toilet provider to perform these inspections then they should either be filling out CanadaGAP Form J or including a statement specifically outlining these duties on their monthly invoices or contract

- **If storing water for equipment cleaning and handwashing, clean the storage tank monthly and record it on CanadaGAP Form I**
 - This only pertains to water that will be used for equipment cleaning and handwashing; this does not apply to water that is stored for pesticide applications

- **If using surface water for equipment cleaning it must be treated**
 - Refer to CanadaGAP manual section 15.3 (page 57) for treatment options

- **Record the cleaning of all equipment on CanadaGAP Form I**
 - This includes all cleaning of tractors, sprayers and fertilizer spreaders
 - If you have a UV light on the water system that you are using for this cleaning, you need to check that the system is working before you use the water and record this check
 - Keep the ends of all hoses up off the ground

- **Record the maintenance of all equipment on CanadaGAP Form I**
 - This includes all maintenance and repairs to tractors, sprayers and fertilizer spreaders

- **Ensure that you have a means for preventing the backflow of solution from your sprayer to your water source during filling**
 - One way to ensure backflow prevention is to maintain an air gap between the top water level of the sprayer and the hose/pipe that you fill it with
 - Another way to ensure backflow prevention is to have a one-way valve on the pump that pumps the water from the water source to the sprayer

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.