

## Ontario Tree Fruit Innovation and Technology Roadmap

### Hedgers

#### Evaluating New Technologies

	Feasibility and cost	Implement	Labour Reduced	Changes in production	Training for staff	Impact on risk of COVID-19 Transmission
	low, medium, high	easy, medium, challenging	% estimate	easy, medium, hard	none, medium, high	none, low, medium, high
Hedgers (summer pruning)	medium-high	medium	30-50	easy	medium	high

#### Current Status

*Hedger - Sickle Bar (multiple cutting shears for summer hedging)* - The hedger operates with a hydraulic system and usually includes a topping bar for a one-pass operation for summer pruning. It is important to have good drainage and a level orchard floor without ruts to ensure an accurate job is done. If the summer growth is heavy, it would be used more than once per season.

#### Feasibility of Implementation

*Hedger - Sickle Bar (multiple cutting shears for summer hedging)* – The initial cost of this technology is in the medium to high range, but payback should be quick within a few seasons or less. Its implementation would reduce labour needs for training and can be used later in the season after harvest to define the edges for dormant pruning.

#### Impact on Labour

*Hedger - Sickle Bar (multiple cutting shears for summer hedging)* - This hedger reduces hand labour for pruning as well as hand labour for removing leaves.

#### COVID-19 Mitigation Risk

*Hedger - Sickle Bar (multiple cutting shears for summer hedging)* - The hedger can reduce several workers in the field that traditionally work from ladders therefore reducing the overall risk of exposure and transmission.



**Ontario  
Tender Fruit  
Growers**

Need for Change, Research and Training

*Hedger - Sickle Bar (multiple cutting shears for summer hedging)* - Implementation would require training and a specialized set of skills for the operator of this equipment.