

Ontario Tree Fruit Innovation and Technology Roadmap

Mechanical Brush Sweeper

Evaluating New Technologies

	Feasibility and cost	Implement	Labour Reduced	Changes in production	Training for staff	Impact on risk of COVID-19 Transmission
Identified Technology	low, medium, high	easy, medium, challenging	% estimate	easy, medium, hard	none, medium, high	none, low, medium, high
Mechanical brush Sweeper	medium	easy	50+	easy	low	high

Current Status - This equipment sweeps the clippings from under the tree to the row middle for chopping.

Feasibility of Implementation - The purchase cost of this equipment is low, and it is easy to implement to reduce labour in the field.

Impact on Labour - This equipment would reduce labour in the orchard for hand raking the brush into the centre of the row.

COVID-19 Mitigation Risk - This equipment reduces labour needs; therefore, it can lower the overall risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission for orchard operations.

Need for Change, Research and Training - Few changes in process and training are required once initial setup modifications to equipment are complete.