

Ontario Tree Fruit Innovation and Technology Roadmap

Mechanical Weed Control

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 weed control	high	medium	30-50+	medium	medium	high

Current Status - In-row equipment with tilling blades used for preventative weed control while swing arm mowers are used for weeds that are resistant to certain herbicides.

Feasibility of Implementation - This equipment is in a medium cost range for both in-row equipment and swing arm mowers, both would be easy to implement.

Impact on Labour - Both in-row equipment and swing arm mowers would reduce labour needed to manually execute these tasks.

COVID-19 Mitigation Risk - Both in-row equipment and swing arm mowers would have a positive impact for growers to reduce the risk of exposure.

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