



# Enhanced Replant Program

PROGRAM GUIDE 2024/25



The Enhanced Replant Program, funded through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will provide support to help wine grape, berry, and tree fruit producers replace existing acreage with climate-resilient varieties that produce in-demand, premium fruit.

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The program is funded by the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.



If there is a discrepancy between this program guide and the information found on [www.iafbc.ca/erp/](http://www.iafbc.ca/erp/), the website takes precedence.



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Enhanced Replant Program (ERP) seeks to increase the competitiveness and resiliency of the BC agri-food economy in domestic and global markets by providing direct funding support to producers looking to replace damaged, diseased and low-producing vines, plants and trees with climate-resilient varieties that produce in-demand, premium fruit.

## Program Structure

Producers can access support for replant or removal activities through four funding streams. Separate application forms are required for each stream and only one ERP application (regardless of stream) can be submitted per farm each fiscal year.

Funding Stream	Eligible Participants in British Columbia
Stream 1: Tree Fruit Replant	Existing cherry, pome fruit (apple, pear), and stone fruit (apricot, nectarine, peach, plum) growers replanting their fields.
Stream 2: Wine Grape Replant	Existing wine grape growers replanting their fields.
Stream 3: Berry Replant	Existing blueberry and raspberry growers replanting their fields.
Stream 4: Berry Removal / Renewal	Existing blueberry growers removing and not replanting their fields. Existing cranberry growers renewing their fields.

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# APPROACH

## Project Length

Producers accessing **replant funding** (Streams 1 to 3) will have **up to 24 months** from the time of approval to complete projects.

Producers accessing **removal / renewal funding** (Stream 4) will have **up to 12 months** from the time of approval to complete projects.

## Project Funding Limits

Funding Stream	Funding Details for Fields <i>without</i> Production Insurance Plant Loss Claim	Funding Details for Fields <i>with</i> Production Insurance Plant Loss Claim	Funding Limits per Farm Operation
Stream 1: Tree Fruit Replant	Nursery stock <sup>1</sup> : Cost-shared 50% plant purchase and one-time licensing/plant royalty fees	Nursery stock: Cost-shared up to 25% plant purchase and one-time licensing/royalty fees	<b>Min:</b> one (1) continuous acre  <b>Max:</b> 20 acres or 15% of existing acreage, whichever is greater  <b>Funding Cap:</b> Up to a maximum \$500,000 <sup>2</sup>
Stream 2: Wine Grape Replant			
Stream 3: Berry Replant	OR	OR	
	Home nurseries: Cost-shared 100% one-time licensing/royalty fees, rootstock, and scion	Home nurseries: Cost-shared up to 25% one-time licensing/royalist fees, rootstock, and scion	
Stream 4: Berry Removal / Renewal	\$2,500/acre blueberry removal \$5,000/acre cranberry renewal	Not eligible	

<sup>1</sup> Producer-to-producer sales (including rootstock, scion, plants) are eligible under ERP. Any producer-to-producer sale (whether originally sourced from a commercial nursery and/or grown at a home nursery) will be cost-shared at 50%. Consult Eligible Invoices for Cost-Shared Funding, pg. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Total ERP funding cap over program duration per farm operation.

### What does the funding limit mean?

Each farm operation can apply for a minimum of one (1) **continuous** acre per project up to a maximum of 20 acres or 15% of existing acreage (leased and owned), whichever is greater.

The total funding available for each farm operation over the duration of the program is capped at a maximum of \$500,000.

Blueberry producers will receive a flat rate of \$2,500 per acre of removal upon project completion. Cranberry producers will receive a flat rate of \$5,000 per acre of removal upon project completion.

### What's a cost-shared ratio?

The cost-sharing ratio represents the proportion of eligible Total Project Costs contributed by both the applicant and the funder. For the Enhanced Replant Program, the cost-shared ratio depends on whether the applicant has been paid a Production Insurance Plant Loss Claim or has a Plant Loss Claim in progress for each field being replanted.

### Applicants with a Plant Loss Claim

All applicants are required to indicate if they have been paid a Production Insurance Plant Loss Claim from January 1, 2023 onward or have a Plant Loss Claim in progress for the field/block being replanted. Cost-share ratios for applicants will be adjusted based on Business Risk Management Program claims at each planting and/or removal/renewal location.

### FIELDS OR BLOCKS WHERE PRODUCTION INSURANCE HAS:

#### **NOT PAID** A PLANT LOSS CLAIM, or **no** active Plant Loss Claim is under consideration

- **Nursery Stock:** Applicants will receive a 50% cost-share (reimbursement) for nursery plants and one-time plant royalty and/or licensing fee(s), when purchased from a commercial nursery.

OR

- **Home Nurseries:** Applicants will receive a 100% cost-share (reimbursement) for one-time plant royalty and/or licensing fee(s), rootstock, and scion sourced from home nurseries (all other costs including maintenance fees are not eligible).

#### **PAID** A PLANT LOSS CLAIM (from January 1, 2023 onwards), or an **active** Plant Loss Claim is under consideration for the field/block being replanted

- **Nursery Stock:** Applicants will receive a 25% cost-share (reimbursement) for nursery plants and one-time plant royalty and/or licensing fee(s), when purchased from a commercial nursery.
- **Home Nurseries:** Applicants will receive a 25% cost-share (reimbursement) for one-time plant royalty and/or licensing fee(s), rootstock, and scion for home nursery stock (all other costs including maintenance fees are not eligible).
- Producers with active Plant Loss Claims are **not eligible** for removal/renewal funding.

Applicants who indicate they are enrolled in Production Insurance will have their information (including Production Insurance Policy Number, Physical Address of planting/removal location and Land Titles Parcel Identification (PID) number) sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Business Risk Management Branch to verify claim status.



# PROGRAM-WIDE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Enhanced Replant Program requires applicants to meet program-wide eligibility criteria **AND** stream-specific eligibility criteria. This section outlines the eligibility criteria all applicants must meet. Stream-specific eligibility criteria is found in the appendices. Applicants are responsible for reviewing and understanding both program-wide and stream-specific eligibility criteria before submitting their application.

## Eligible Applicants

All applicants for ERP must:

- Be an existing blueberry, cranberry, raspberry, tree fruit<sup>3</sup>, or wine grape grower in British Columbia, farming over 1 acre of perennial crops.
  - Existing blueberry or cranberry growers are exclusively eligible for Stream 4: Berry Removal / Renewal.
- Be the owner or lessee of the land.
- Indicate if they have been paid a Production Insurance Plant Loss Claim from January 1, 2023 onwards or have a Plant Loss Claim in progress for the field/block being replanted.
- Demonstrate financial viability to complete and maintain a project.
- Be in good standing with council(s) identified by the corresponding industry association (see Appendices).
- Maintain the property as a commercial operation for at least four (4) years after replanting.

Applicants with an active project with the Perennial Crop Renewal Program (PCRP) (2023-2025) are not eligible to apply for ERP.

## Ineligible Applicants

- Annual crop producers, forage producers, non-commercial producers, and farmland outside of BC.
- Sectors that do not have an opportunity assessment completed and pre-approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Producers that do not meet sector-specific criteria (Appendices)
- Producers with active Plant Loss Claims are not eligible for Stream 4: Berry Removal/Renewal
- Applicants with an active project with the Perennial Crop Renewal Program (PCRP) (2023-2025) are **not** eligible to apply for ERP.

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<sup>3</sup> Existing tree fruit producers include those currently growing cherries, pome fruit (apple, pear) and other stone fruits (apricot, nectarine, peach, and plum).

## Eligible Activities and Expenditures

Eligible activities and expenditures for the Enhanced Replant Program include:

### Replant Projects (Streams 1 to 3)

- The replant site must be in British Columbia.
- Each replant project must cover at a minimum (1) acre of continuous land;
  - Multiple planted areas that collectively equal one acre is not eligible
- Plant costs: provided planting takes place **after** application approval and plants have not been funded through other programs.
  - Nursery stock: plant costs and one-time licensing/plant royalty fees.
  - Home nursery stock: one-time licensing/plant royalty fees, rootstock, and scion.
- Based on current projections, the replant site is commercially viable (i.e. will generate a positive return) at full production (a form will be provided at time of application to confirm).
- One continuous acre that plants multiple varieties of the same commodity. Excludes Interplanting (planting young plants between each existing plant in the row).
- For each replanted site, applicants must be a licensed water user, be within an irrigation district, or have submitted a water use license application prior to applying.
  - Audited applicants must provide proof (e.g., water bill or license).
- Irrigation systems must be installed at planting<sup>4</sup>.

### Removal/Renewal Projects (Stream 4)

- The removal/renewal site must be in British Columbia.
- Each removal/renewal project must cover at a minimum of one (1) acre of continuous land.
- Removal costs: provided removal of plants takes place **after** application approval and removal has not been funded through other programs.
- Renewal costs: provided removal of plants takes place **after** application approval and removal has not been funded through other programs.

**Note:** Retroactive plant purchases that took place on or after January 1, 2022 are eligible for cost-sharing, provided they have not already been cost-shared through another government program (i.e. Perennial Crop Renewal Program). Approved applicants will be reimbursed for eligible costs upon project completion and submission of receipts.

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<sup>4</sup> Wine grape growers on Vancouver Island are exempted from irrigation system installation requirement.

## Ineligible Activities and Expenses

- Multiple planted areas that collectively equal one acre.
- New plantings that include farm expansions and the establishment of crops on bare land or land previously utilized for non-perennial crops or non-food perennial crops.
- Good and Services Tax (GST).
- In-kind expenses.
- Taxes and duty or shipping costs.
- Other planting or removal costs including but not limited to: rental of equipment, purchase of posts and wire, labour etc.
- Interplanting in existing orchards (planting young plants between each existing plant in the row)
- Ineligible commodity-specific criteria as outlined in the sector-specific planting/removal guidelines.

## Stream-Specific Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria specific to each commodity, for both removal and replant/renewal applications, are detailed in the Appendices. It is the responsibility of applicants to thoroughly review the eligibility requirements for replanting or removal/renewal projects relevant to their commodity group.

**IMPORTANT:** High demand is expected for ERP. Submit completed application(s) as soon as possible to increase your funding chances. Applying is not a guarantee of funding. If the program is oversubscribed, additional scoring criteria will be used to score all eligible applicants, with funding awarded to the highest-scoring applicants first.



# PROJECT INFORMATION

## Important Program Dates

**Applications will be accepted starting on October 29, 2024.** See the table below for the timelines for each stream.

Applicants will have the opportunity to prepare and draft applications before submission.

Funding Stream	Applications Open	Submissions Open	Applications Close
Stream 1: Tree Fruit Replant	October 29, 2024	November 26, 2024, at 9 AM	December 3, 2024, at 4 PM
Stream 2: Wine Grape Replant	October 29, 2024	November 26, 2024, at 9 AM	December 3, 2024, at 4 PM
Stream 3: Berry Replant	November 7, 2024	December 5, 2024, at 9 AM	December 12, 2024, at 4 PM
Stream 4: Berry Removal/Renewal	November 7, 2024	December 5, 2024, at 9 AM	December 12, 2024, at 4 PM

## Application Process

Applications are accepted through the IAF Client Portal. Only one application per fiscal year, regardless of stream, can be submitted per farm operation.

### The application process consists of:

#### Create an Account & Organization Registration

- [Go to IAF's Client Portal.](#)
- Create a personal profile (name and email).
- Provide your organization's information.
- IAF will validate your account, then you will receive an email granting you access to the portal. *Please note this can take up to two business days.*

#### Applying for Project Funding

Select the Enhanced Replant Program from Funding Opportunities, and provide:

- Additional applicant information, including commodity type
- Parcel Identification Number PID and civic address for each planting or removal/renewal site
- Planting proposal, including field size (acres), variety, planting density, site map etc.
- Total Plant Cost (if applicable) and Funding Request
- All applicants may also be required to complete and submit an AF Demographic Survey with their ERP application; Confirmation ID numbers are submitted with each ERP application.

- Participants of the Business Risk Management (BRM) program, will also be asked to provide:
  - Production Insurance Policy Number, physical address of the planting that is being removed or replanted; and the Land Titles Parcel Identification (PID) number. [How to Find the BC Land Titles Parcel ID \(PID\) Using a Civic Address.](#)
  - Any payments received for Production Insurance plant loss claim from January 1, 2023 onwards or if a plant loss claim is in progress for the field/block being replanted.
  - AgriStability Participant Identification Number, if enrolled.
- Supporting documents (i.e. confirmed plant order). These documents can be uploaded through the IAF Client Portal as attachments to the application.

IAF staff are available to answer questions regarding eligible activities, costs and/or the application process. IAF may also contact applicants for additional information or clarification to assess their application. Applicants can contact [erp@iafbc.ca](mailto:erp@iafbc.ca) with any questions about the program or to receive support in developing their application or book an appointment for a phone call.

Applicants are encouraged to include only activities they are confident will be completed on time and within budget limits.

**Note:** Applying to the program is not a guarantee of funding. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet eligibility criteria will not fulfill the program's requirements and may adversely affect your funding decision.

## Have a Question?

If you have any questions about your application, program eligibility, required documents, etc. IAF encourages you to reach out to [erp@iafbc.ca](mailto:erp@iafbc.ca). You can also book a 10-minute phone consult with an IAF staff member once the stream applications are open. Prior to booking an appointment, you must start your draft application and provide the ID number (ERP-202425-0#####). This gives you and the IAF staff member a specific application to reference and provide support for during the 10-minute phone call. Applicants are limited to one phone call appointment currently. Visit [www.iafbc.ca/erp/](http://www.iafbc.ca/erp/) for more information.

## Application Review & Adjudication

Prior to funding decisions being made, project applications are screened and reviewed by IAF and may be reviewed by a technical expert. The application review process will include:

- Ensuring application completeness.
- Organization/Applicant eligibility check.
- Project eligibility check.

## Application Audit

Upon successful completion of review by IAF staff, 10% of eligible applications will be selected for further audit and review. This audit will involve a secondary review of applications for eligibility and validation of technical information by an Accredited Professional. Additional information may be requested from the applicant before it can be considered for funding. The following audit criteria may be considered:

- Owner/Lessee Farm Operation details:
  - Total acreage
  - Planting density
  - Business plan
- Financial Review
  - Contribution Margin Template for positive returns
- Compliance Checks
  - Food safety standards
  - Valid water license
  - Soil test results
- Varietal Assessment
- Additional Assessments
  - Production insurance
  - AgriStability participation
  - Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

**Note:** Applications that fail the audit requirements may be deemed ineligible and not funded.

### **Program Scoring Criteria**

All eligible applications will be scored based on specific criteria provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; this may include:

- Confirmed plant order for all fields at the time of application.
- Enrollment in Production Insurance.
- Enrollment in AgriStability or vertical integration that makes them ineligible for AgriStability.
- A current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or in the process of renewing/applying for one.
- A business plan that meets Ministry requirements and was developed within the last five years.

### **Additional Scoring Criteria**

The following additional scoring criteria outline are specific for each funding stream related to replanting and removal/renewal activities:

#### **Stream 1: Tree Fruit Replant**

- Field(s) being replanted will be cover cropped or left fallow for at least 12 months prior to planting.

#### **Stream 2: Wine Grape Replant**

- Field(s) being replanted will be cover cropped or left fallow for at least 12 months prior to planting.
- Sustainable Wine BC (SWBC) member OR have completed the SWBC online self-assessment.

#### **Stream 3: Berry Replant**

- Field(s) being replanted will be cover cropped for at least 6 months prior to planting.

#### **Stream 4: Berry Removal/Renewal**

- Blueberry Removal: Fields are being removed due to high levels of Blueberry Scorch Virus.
- Cranberry Removal: Removing old varieties including Stevens, Berman, Pilgrim, Ben Lear, McFarlin, or Grygleski Hybrid 1.

Funding will be awarded to high-scoring applicants first, until the program allocations are fully committed.

IAF will email the applicant within 20 business days of submitting a complete application with a funding decision. Please note, if an application is sent back for further information or revisions this will reset the 20-business day application review timeline. All funding decisions are final. All applicants will receive a funding decision email from IAF via the IAF Client Portal. The status of an application can be found in the [IAF Client Portal](#).



# FUNDING NOTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

If the project is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions by email. Notification will be provided within 20 business days of a completed application submission.

Funding is application and project-specific and must be used for the approved project and eligible expenses as outlined. Funds are non-transferable. Retroactive approvals are eligible for ERP. Replanting activities are eligible provided the purchase was made on or after January 1, 2022.

Approved replant projects, including those that receive a conditional approval, must be completed within 24 months of funding decision notification. Approved removal projects must be completed within 12 months of funding decision notification. Applicants without a confirmed plant order may receive conditional funding approval, pending the submission of an order confirmation to IAF. Conditional approval is valid for 60 days; failure to submit an order confirmation will result in cancellation of conditional approval. Applicants would be required to resubmit pending reopening of an application window. No project extensions will be considered.

Approved applicants will be published annually on the IAF website, highlighting funding awarded to producers and key program achievements to date.

## Funding Acknowledgements

This program is funded by the Government of British Columbia. As such, acknowledgement of funding is required when publicly communicating about a project and/or funding. To ensure appropriate acknowledgement, all communications and marketing materials, including public announcements or social media posts, must be pre-approved by the IAF Communications Team. Details on correctly acknowledging funding can be found on the [project resource hub](#). Materials must be submitted via the [IAF Client Portal](#).

## Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants must complete all removal/renewal or replanting activities, submit a project report and/or successfully complete an on-site field inspection prior to receiving payment. Project report(s) must be completed and submitted to IAF, with **receipts and invoices** (as applicable), to be considered for funding reimbursement. It is important the final report is submitted on time and with all required information. Expenses will be reimbursed based on the submitted receipts, the approved project proposal, and the corresponding cost-share ratio. Payments will be made in CAD with exchange rates calculated at the time of payment unless a proof of exchange rate is provided. All reporting will be completed via the [IAF Client Portal](#).

Cranberry renewal and blueberry removal projects will be reimbursed based on a flat rate per acre following the completion of removal activities. Final reporting will be required before funding payments are issued.

## Final Project Reports

Final project reports will include, but may not be limited to:

- **Replant Projects:** Image(s) of each project location, showing planted rows and installed irrigation.
- **Replant/Removal Projects:** Image(s) of each project location, showing all plants and obsolete infrastructure have been removed and disposed of
- Confirmed total number of plants/acres planted or removed
- Provide supporting documents (receipts, invoices etc.)
- Producer planting survey
- Attestation of work complete

A progress report(s) may be required for projects that exceed 12-months in duration.

If a report is submitted by a producer, shows evidence of inter-planting, the project will automatically require an on-site field inspection and may be ineligible for funding.

## Eligible Invoices for Cost-Shared Funding

To qualify for reimbursement, invoices must:

1. Relate to Approved Expenses: Reflect costs directly associated with purchases from
  - a. Nursery Stock: Plant(s) purchased and/or one-time royalty or licensing fee
  - b. Home-sourced Nursery: Growers using their own home nurseries need provide receipt for rootstock and scion (if applicable) and receipt for any associated royalty payments.
2. Be Itemized: Include detailed descriptions (i.e. varieties), quantities, and unit prices for the above expenses.
3. Show Date of Purchase: Indicate the invoice date or purchase date(s)
4. Include Vendor Information: Display the vendor's name, address, and contact details.
5. Provide Payment Proof: Accompany the invoice with evidence of payment, such as a receipt or bank statement (if available at the time of application).

**Producer-to-producer sales (including rootstock, scion, plants) are eligible under ERP.** Applicants must provide an 'invoice' for the payment of a producer-to-producer sales which includes:

1. Seller information; including legal business name, address / contact information, GST/business number for farm/business selling trees;
  - a. IAF may request original invoices from commercial nurseries on a case-by-case basis
2. The variety and number (unit/quantity) of trees sold;
3. Cost per tree and total costs;
4. Buyer information; including legal business name and address / contact information for the farm/business buying trees;
5. The applicant (buyer) is also required to provide back up of the transaction to show proof of payment (i.e. bank statement showing transfer of funds, deposited cheque etc.)"

For questions about eligible expenses, please contact the IAF program team at [erp@iafbc.ca](mailto:erp@iafbc.ca).

## Field Inspections

**Field inspection process:** Approved projects selected to participate in the field inspection audit will be automatically notified when a final report is completed / submitted to IAF through the [IAF Client Portal](#).

Field inspections will be conducted for a minimum of 25% of completed projects, by a qualified professional scheduling an on-site visit with the producer. Field inspections will take place within 3-6 months of project completion and planting. Final payments will be based on the outcome of the inspection and assessment of the project's progress.

Criteria for each inspection could include, but is not limited to:

- Verify project location.
- Verify the commodity planted.
- Verify the source of planting stock and varieties.
- Assess site preparation and weed control.
- Measure average plant spacing and row spacing.
- Measure field area.
- Assess plant quality in terms of overall health.
- Ensure support system/trellising is in place and trees are tied (if applicable).
- Ensure permanent irrigation system is installed.
- Verify the previous planting in field block have been removed and obsolete infrastructure has been removed and disposed of.
- Take photos.

**Note:** Projects that fail the field inspection requirements may be deemed ineligible and not funded.

Payments will only be issued to producers following project completion and/or field inspection.