

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Grape Industry Development Program





Objectives:

- To provide assistance for the establishment of new or more productive vineyards.
- To assist with the adoption of new vineyard technologies and/or purchase of specialized vineyard equipment that will improve grape production practices in New Brunswick (NB).



Rationale:

- With the availability of hardy new selections capable of withstanding very cold winters in the -32°C to -35°C temperature range and the implementation of the Cottage Winery Program, the NB grape industry has been expanding over the last ten years. The Grape Industry Development Program will assist producers to plant selections of grape varieties suited to NB growing conditions and meet market demands. Healthy planting stock, good vine density and support systems (posts and trellis) are all critical components of a successful vineyard plantation and can provide higher yields and higher quality grapes.
- As the grape industry in NB develops, it will be important to provide assistance to producers to invest in equipment and innovative technologies that will allow them to expand their production capacity and to maintain the quality of the grape until it is delivered to the winery.

Eligibility:

Eligible Applicants:

Established New Brunswick grape growers and new entrants who wish to establish a vineyard in New Brunswick.

Eligibility Criteria:

- activities must be carried out within the province of New Brunswick
- preference will be given to projects which will result in the grapes being value-added within New Brunswick



Initiative Elements:

ELEMENT A:

Assistance for the Establishment of New or More Productive Vineyards

Eligible Items:

Grape vines, as listed in Appendix 1 and the associated support system; trellis systems constructed to the following standard: 8 ft galvanized 16 gauge stake (to hold wires), posts (includes line and 14 gauge end posts, anchors) and wire trellis system (12.5 and 14 gauge wire). Upgrade of current trellis and posts to higher standard will be eligible. Bamboo support posts are not eligible for funding. Any variance from the support system standard outlined above must be approved by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) staff.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must submit a vineyard plan (for the new planting site) that includes a list of grape varieties being planted (as selected from the list in Appendix 1), and a written description of the planting site indicating suitability for grape production (e.g. topography, slope, soil type and texture and drainage) as well as a description of site preparation and a soil analysis report. A description of the trellis system for each site should also be included. If varieties to be planted are not on the list (Appendix 1) a strong rationale explaining why these varieties should be eligible for funding must be included.
 - The vines to be planted should be winter hardy in a temperature range of -32°C to -35°C, sourced from virus indexed stock and be at least one year old.
 - To be eligible, grape vines must be planted in their permanent vineyard location (e.g. not in nursery) and the trellis system must be installed.
 - The applicant must submit an estimate, in terms of dollar value; of how much the funding is expected to contribute to the growth and sustainability of the operation.
- On-farm plant propagation expenses are not eligible for funding, however; funding for associated vine support systems is eligible. In the case where farm propagated material is used (minimum 1.5 year old), the grower must provide a description of the propagation and phyto-sanitary practices used to ensure healthy plant stock in order to be eligible for funding for the associated vine support system.
 - A copy of quotation or invoice (whichever applicable) must be submitted with the application.

It is recommended that applicants consult with NBDAAF staff regarding the suitability of the location of the vineyard within the province, site selection, preparation of soil, choice of variety, and vine support systems before submitting the application. Further information can be obtained from the New Brunswick Grape Growers Association.

Level of Assistance:

For a new planting, replacement of existing vines or an existing trellis system: Up to 50% of eligible cost for the vines and trellis system. A producer is eligible to a maximum of \$1,550 per acre for plants and \$3,150 per acre for trellis system, to a maximum of \$4,700 per acre for both plants and trellis.

Replacement vines for missing or dead vines that received funding through previous programs are not eligible for funding.

Proof of payment will be required.

The vine number, viability and strength will be checked by NBDAAF staff before claims are processed. Growers must follow acceptable cultural practices as outlined in the publication "Growing Grapes in New Brunswick".

Costs incurred prior to April 1, 2024 are not eligible for assistance under Element A.

Element A – Application deadlines: November 8, 2024

ELEMENT B:

Assistance for the adoption of new vineyard technologies and/or purchase of specialized vineyard equipment that will improve grape production practices in New Brunswick

Eligible Items:

Specialized cultivators, in-field drip irrigation, harvesting bins, totes, field trailers (to transport harvesting bins out of the field). Other innovative specialized technologies related to grape production may be considered if sufficient rationale is provided. Bird netting is not eligible but assistance is available under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) - **Risk Management and Food Safety**.

Eligibility Criteria:

All applicants must provide a written explanation as to how these improvements or pieces of equipment will increase the productivity and/or efficiency of their vineyard. A copy of quotation or invoice (whichever applicable) must be submitted with the application.

Level of assistance:

Assistance will be provided for up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant. The number of bins must be verified for identification purposes by NBDAAF staff before funding will be provided. All bins must have clearly visible permanent marking that identifies the year purchased. Proof of payment will be required.

Costs incurred prior to project approval are not eligible for assistance under Element B.

Element B - Application deadlines: January 22, 2025

Priority for assistance will be given to projects submitted under Element A.

The maximum program contribution per year/per farm is \$20,000 (Elements A+B).

Appendix 1

List of Grape Varieties predicted to grow in N.B. in the -32°C to -35°C temperature range

Varieties
Adalmiina
Baltica
ES 10-18-14
Frontenac
Frontenac Blanc
Frontenac Gris
La Crescent
Louise Swenson
Marquette
Radisson
Sabrevois
St-Croix



Administrative Guidelines

All applicants must be familiar with the administrative guidelines prior to applying. The Administrative Guidelines can be found here: [**SCAP Administrative Guidelines**](#)



Other Requirements

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any necessary permits, environmental approvals, or certifications are obtained to complete their project.



Reporting

Applicants may be required to report on the impact of the funding received. Reporting requirements will be outlined in the letter of offer.

How to Apply

Applicants should discuss applications with appropriate Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff (Business Growth Officer, Development Officer or Specialist) before applying. A list of departmental contacts can be found at the following link:

[**Crop Sector Development \(Branch\) \(gnb.ca\)**](#)

Completed applications may be submitted by e-mail or mail.

E-mail Applications:

[**Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca**](mailto:Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca)

Mail Applications:

Sustainable CAP Program Administrator
Industry Financial Programs
Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1