



Possibility grows here.

Greenbelt Foundation

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## Backgrounder: The impact of the Greenbelt Foundation grant to Ontario Tender Fruit Growers

**Date:** September 15, 2022

**Prepared For:** Various media

**Prepared By:** Greenbelt Foundation

### Overview

The Greenbelt Foundation and Greenbelt Fund contributed more than \$450,000 towards the purchase and planting of 212,675 new tender fruit trees and 200 fresh table grape vines over three main planting periods in 2016, 2017 and 2019. The program funds up to 30 per cent of the cost of eligible new tender fruit trees and fresh grape vines. Total overall grower investment from Ontario's tender fruit industry has amounted to \$3.2 million.

The Foundation has provided additional funding of more than \$286,000 for the 2021-23 period to plant about 75,000 new trees and 10,000 new vines in the Niagara region.

The investment has already had a tremendous impact on the growers, tender fruit sector and overall economic activity in Ontario, and the efforts will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

### Background

The Greenbelt Foundation grant has impacted over 90 tender fruit growers in Ontario. More than 765 acres of land have been planted with new fruit trees and vines, including over 146 newly planted peach acres.

#### Number of trees planted and growers impacted

- 212,675 tender fruit trees planted producing fruits this summer
  - 137,307 planted in 2016-17
  - 75,368 planted in 2019
- 200 Jupiter vines planted producing grapes this summer
  - 200 planted in 2019

#### Number of acres impacted

- 765 acres of land impacted
  - 146 newly planted peach acres planted

#### Variety of tender fruit trees planted and yields produced in 2022

- Peach – 63 varieties (5.8 million lb. produced)
- Nectarine – 18 varieties (1.5 million lb. produced)
- Early Golden Plum – 2 varieties (238,000 lb. produced)



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- Blue Plum – 25 varieties (772,000 lb. produced)
- Apricot – 13 varieties (237,000 lb. produced)
- Pear – 15 varieties (1.7 million lb. produced)
- Sour Cherry – 2 varieties (451,000 lb. produced)

The program also resulted in several industry firsts for the Ontario Tender Fruit & Fresh Grape sector:

- With 10 acres of Asian Pears for commercial production new to the Ontario fresh market, locally grown Asian Pears are now available for the first time to shoppers throughout Ontario.
- 10 acres of Cold Snap™ Pears, Canada's newest pear variety, with a higher resistance to disease and a longer storage life than other varieties.
- Dramatic increases in plantings of new pear varieties that are more resistant to fire blight and planted in high density with higher yields per acre.
- Over 130,000 new peach and nectarine trees planted to over 81 different varieties including:
  - Trees from the Stellar Peach Series
  - Several successful varieties stemming from Ontario Tender Fruit Growers New Variety Development project
- Over 20 acres and 13 different varieties of apricots, which are relatively new to the Ontario Tender Fruit roster, were planted.
- The planting of 200 new Jupiter grapevines marked the start of the revitalization of the fresh grape industry; they are now in even greater production and hit the retail shelves this year.