

# Insuring Your Tomorrow

*Agricorp connects producers with programs. We partner to develop risk management programs that are flexible to the changing needs of agriculture.*



Connecting producers with programs  
Établir un lien entre producteurs et programmes

## Ontario Juice Grape Transition Program

### Program Guidelines



### About the Program

The Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, has established the voluntary Ontario Juice Grape Transition Program to provide qualifying Ontario growers of juice grapes with part of the costs of removing and disposing of their vineyard stock (including vines, roots, posts, and wires) in 2007.

This voluntary program is designed to mitigate the plant health risks posed by abandoned vineyards to neighbouring healthy vineyards.

Qualifying growers will receive \$1,500 per acre towards vineyard stock removal and disposal costs.

All vineyard stock contained in each distinct juice grape vineyard location that is accepted into the program must be removed in order for a grower to qualify for payments. Partial stock removal within a single juice grape vineyard location will not qualify a grower for payments. Growers with vineyards in multiple locations will be required to specify on the application form which vineyards are included in the application. Once an application has been accepted, program eligibility is not transferable.

All references to "acres" in these guidelines will be calculated on a "growing area" basis.

### Qualifying Grape Varieties

All grape varieties under classes 1 to 3 (*labrusca*), as set out in the Grape Growers of Ontario pricing categorization, are eligible under the program. These varieties include Concord, Niagara, and Elvira grapes.

The program will not provide assistance for the removal and disposal of wine grape vines (i.e., grapes derived from cultivars of the species *vitis vinifera* and hybrid cultivars) or for the removal and disposal of grape vines where grapes are supplied to the fresh table grape market.

### Qualifying Vineyards

Growers of vineyards in the following circumstances may be eligible for payments under the program:

- Existing productive juice grape vineyards;
- Juice grape vineyards that were in production at the end of the 2006 harvest, but which have subsequently had the vineyard stock removed by the grower;

- Juice grape vineyards that currently contain living juice grape vines, but where a harvest did not occur in 2006 and/or where the vineyard has not been subject to normal vineyard management practices.

For the grower to qualify for payments, the juice grape vineyards must have been cultivated for commercial processing. Home or garden vineyards for personal use are not eligible.

Growers who harvested a juice grape crop in 2006 from vineyards which had the vineyard stock subsequently removed by the grower will be eligible to apply under the program if the vineyard's grapes were sold into the processing market in 2006. Agricorp may require proof of such sales through receipts and/or copies of processor contracts to verify eligibility.

As noted above, owners of juice grape vineyards that currently contain living juice grape vines, but which may not have been subject to normal vineyard management practices in recent growing seasons, are also eligible to apply if all other program criteria are met.

Final decisions regarding eligibility will be made by Agricorp.

### Your Obligation as a Grower

Eligible growers must apply to the program no later than **July 4, 2007**. All applications received by this date will be verified by Agricorp and, if approved, the grower will receive a confirmation letter or other means of notification. Growers should not proceed with vine stock cutting or removal (or the application of herbicide) until their enrolment in the program has been confirmed by Agricorp.

If the vineyard information provided on the application cannot be verified by Agricorp, a pre-qualification visit by an Agricorp representative must occur before the grower's acceptance into the program can be confirmed.

Once a grower is accepted into the program through a confirmation letter or other notification, the grower must follow these two steps:

1. For qualifying juice grape vineyards that have not already had the vineyard stock removed by the grower, the applicant must cut all juice grape vines at ground level and apply a herbicide to the remaining stumps to prevent re-growth no later than **July 22, 2007**. When this work has been completed, the grower must provide a declaration to Agricorp by **July 23, 2007**, confirming that the work has taken place. (For vineyards where the grower has already removed the vineyard stock by this date, the grower is still required to complete the declaration and submit it to Agricorp.) The grower will receive an initial payment of \$100 per acre in late summer, to reflect part of the grower's costs in completing the initial vine cut-off.
2. All vineyard stock, including vines, roots, posts, and wires, must be removed by **November 30, 2007**. The grower must file a Statement of Final Vineyard Removal with Agricorp by this date indicating that the work has been completed.

*Our vision: to be the recognized providers  
of agricultural risk management  
products.*

All vineyard lands that have been accepted into the Ontario Juice Grape Transition Program must remain in agriculture (or be available to agriculture) for at least five years.

## Key Dates

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>July 4, 2007</b>
<b>Initial Cut-Off for Vines:</b>	<b>July 22, 2007</b>
<b>Submit Declaration to Agricorp:</b>	<b>July 23, 2007</b>
<b>Submit Statement of Final Vineyard Removal:</b>	<b>November 30, 2007</b>

Final payments to growers of \$1,400 per acre are expected to occur during the winter of 2007-08. The order in which Agricorp makes payments to growers may not reflect the order in which growers complete the final removal of all vineyard stock.

## For Leased Land

If the vineyard lands are leased, both the grower and the land owner must sign the application form. The person designated as the applicant will receive the payment. The payment recipient should be the person who will incur the vineyard removal and disposal costs.

## Information for CAIS Participants

Growers who participate in the Ontario Juice Grape Transition Program are required to include any payments received in their calculation of income under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. Some of the grower's removal and disposal expenses may also be eligible for consideration under the CAIS program.

## Existing Processor Contracts

Growers are responsible for managing their existing contractual relationships with juice grape processors and other grape buyers. The Ontario Juice Grape Transition Program will not assist growers with the costs of terminating existing contracts. Neither the Ontario government nor Agricorp are legally responsible for the consequences if participating growers fail to meet their existing contractual obligations to third parties.

## Compliance and Audits

Once accepted into the program, a grower is responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of the program. Agricorp will conduct spot audits during the summer of 2007, and a final verification audit for all growers will take place in the fall and winter of 2007. An applicant is responsible for ensuring the truth and accuracy of all information provided to Agricorp. A grower who provides false or misleading information to Agricorp may be disqualified and required to repay any program funds that were paid to the grower.

Agricorp will seek to recover any program payments made to which an applicant was not entitled.

Agricorp has the discretion to determine grower eligibility and to administer the program. An appeals process will be available through Agricorp for the resolution of any disputes regarding the administration of the program.

---

## For Further Information:

The program will be administered by Agricorp. For more information, please contact your local Agricorp field adjuster or the Agricorp Regional Manager for your area. For general inquiries, or if you do not know the name of your local Agricorp adjuster, please contact Agricorp directly:

## Contact Us

**Agricorp**  
1 Stone Road West  
Box 3660 Stn. Central  
Guelph ON N1H 8M4  
www.agricorp.com  
Email: contact@agricorp.com

**Inquiries**  
Phone: 1-888-247-4999  
Fax: 519-826-4118

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*These guidelines are subject to change.*

