

# **Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA) Honeycrisp™ Orchard Renewal Program (HCORP) Technical & Administration (T/A) Guidelines for 2010 planting.**

## **Foreword**

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) is providing financial assistance for apple orchard renewal in Nova Scotia. The "Honeycrisp Orchard Renewal Program" (HCORP) includes the primary cultivars Honeycrisp, Ambrosia, Gala and Sweetango (a club variety that has been included in the "Special Market Opportunities" category). Initially the HCORP was a five year program Apr 2005 – Mar 2010 with NSDA funding of \$1.175M. In 2008 and 2009 additional funding, in the total amount of \$435,000, was made available by NSDA to support the large plantings. In 2009 NSDA extended the program for one more planting year providing an additional \$235,000. The program term is now Apr 2005 – Mar 2011 with total program funding of \$1,184M.

The purpose of NSDA's assistance is to provide Nova Scotia apple producers with a funding incentive to replant orchards with specific high value cultivars that are intended to increase the producers' returns from the marketplace.

HCORP is managed and administered by the NSFGA, supported by a Program Manager, the HCORP Steering Committee (SC) and an independent Technical Advisor (TA).

NSFGA HCORP SC for 2010-2011:

1. Production Representative	Blake Sarsfield
2. Production Representative	Larry Lutz
3. Production Representative	Waldo Walsh
4. IFP Representative	David Power
5. Packer Representative	Hal Stirling
6. Grower-at-Large	Andrew Bishop
7. Processor Representative	Leonard Sarsfield
8. Research Representative	Charles Embree, AAFC, Sustainable Prod Systems
9. Research Representative	Keith Fuller, AAFC, Soil & Water
10. HC Research Advisor	Doug Nichols, NSFGA
11. President (current)	Mary Lou Power, Chair
12. Program Manager	Dela Erith
13. External expertise	as required
14. External expertise Technical Advisor (non-voting)	as required Bill Craig, AgraPoint International

## **1. HCORP Parameters:**

1.1. Program period: April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2011

1.2. Primary Cultivars:

- Honeycrisp
- Ambrosia
- Gala
- Sweetango ("Special Market Opportunities" Category)

1.3 Planting:

A minimum of 188,265 trees will be funded by the program. Each of the primary cultivars listed above (item 1.2), or combination thereof, is subject to a minimum 70/30 planting ratio of primary HCORP approved cultivar(s) to HCORP SC approved pollinizer(s).

**All eligible trees, from approved applications, must be planted by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the planting year and all trellises must be in place and inspected by the TA not later than Dec 31 of the planting year.**

1.4. Non-repayable grant: \$1.845 million is the total provincial contribution. \$235,000 will be provided each year for six plantings (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010). **In 2008 an additional, one-time contribution of \$235,000** was provided by NSDA to assist with the cost of the 2008 planting. **In 2009 an additional one-time contribution of \$200,000** was provided by NSDA to assist with the cost of the planned 2009 planting. **The program was extended in 2009 to include a 2010 planting.**

1.5. Applications: All applications will be subject to the approval of the HCORP SC.

## 2. HCORP Eligibility Criteria:

- 2.1. The Applicant must be a Nova Scotia producer, partnership or corporation that has minimum annual gross farm revenue of \$10,000 derived from the production of tree fruit.
- 2.2. The Applicant must have a demonstrated ability to be able to meet the current NSFGA HCORP Technical & Administrative (T/A) Guidelines to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC.
- 2.3. The Applicant, as a new entrant to apple production, may be considered eligible for the HCORP at the discretion of the HCORP SC.
- 2.4. The Applicant must agree to abide by the NSFGA HCORP T/A Guidelines.
- 2.5. The Applicant, as the **land owner**, must agree to maintain, to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC, the HCORP planting as a commercial orchard operation for a minimum period of ten years from the date of the HCORP planting.  
  
In the case of **leased property** both the owner and the lessee of the leased property must agree to maintain, to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC, the HCORP planting as a commercial orchard operation for a minimum period of ten years from the date of the HCORP planting.
- 2.6. The Applicant must agree to pay royalties on all of the patented varieties that he/she plants under the HCORP as well as fees applicable to club varieties.
- 2.7. The Applicant must agree that if the conditions of the HCORP T/A Guidelines are not met and maintained, at the discretion of the HCORP SC, the applicant will be obliged to repay the HCORP planting grant to the NSFGA.

## 3. HCORP Technical & Administrative (T/A) Guidelines:

### 3.1 Planting:

- 3.1.1 **24% Rule:** **Effective with the 2010 planting, up to 24%** of the eligible grower's owned and existing orchard, or orchard acreage held over the three years previous to application, may be replanted over the six year HCORP. *For example:* If the applicant has 50 eligible acres, he/she may receive funding to replant 12 acres (24%).

**Note:** Regardless of how many trees an applicant plants in any one year, HCORP funded tree planting maximums will match the government funds made available for that planting year.

*Planting Minimum:* 300 trees per acre. The minimum allowable planting is one acre.

*Planting Maximum:* 800 trees per acre

**Exception to the 24% Rule:**

If the Applicant wishes to increase his/her planting density to more than 800 trees per acre and receive funding for the additional trees, then the Applicant's number of allowable acres will decrease.

For example: under the 24% rule, an applicant with 50 eligible acres of orchard may replant 12 acres, allowing him/her to plant a maximum of 9,600 funded trees on those 12 acres.

- With a maximum tree funding of **\$9.80 per supported** tree, the applicant will be allowed a total of \$94,080 in funding (800 trees/acre x 12 acres = 9,600 trees @ \$9.80 per tree = \$94,080).
- With a maximum tree funding of **\$6.30 per unsupported** tree, the applicant will be allowed a total of \$60,480 in funding (800 trees/acre x 12 acres = 9,600 trees @ \$6.30 per tree = \$60,480).

**but in the case of both supported and unsupported trees**

- if the same Applicant wants to increase his/her planting density 30% over the maximum allowable planting density of 800 trees per acre to 1,040 trees per acre, the Applicant's maximum funding allowance will remain at \$94,080 and the allowable acreage for replanting will drop by a corresponding 30%; the applicant will be eligible to plant only 8.4 acres over the life of the program.

**3.2 Funding:** HCORP will be delivered by the NSFGA over six years (2005-2011). Program end date is March 31, 2011. The final planting year is 2010.

Tree Assistance: \$9.80 per supported tree

Maximum funding of \$7,840 per acre will be allowed for supported trees (800 trees @ \$9.80 per tree = \$7,840) (see above, "Exception to the 24% Rule")

\$6.30 per unsupported tree

A maximum of \$5,040 per acre will be allowed for unsupported trees (800 trees @ \$6.30 per tree = \$5,040) (see above, "Exception to the 24% Rule")

**3.3 Administration Fee:**

A 15% administration fee will be charged on all trees planted, inspected by the TA and accepted for payment by the HCORP SC. This fee will be deducted from the producer's planting payment.

A non-refundable Application Processing Fee of \$200 plus HST will be charged to non-members of the NSFGA. The fee must accompany the HCORP application.

#### 3.4 **Support Systems:**

An HCORP SC approved tree support system is required for plantings when, in the opinion of the HCORP SC, the rootstock and planting system selected requires support.

#### 3.5 **Pollinizers:**

Each planting may include a maximum of 30% pollinizer trees. Pollinizer varieties must be approved by the HCORP SC.

#### 3.6 **Tree Quality:**

A producer must plant trees of at least 1.2 m in height or at least 12.5 mm trunk diameter measured 50 mm above the graft union.

#### 3.7 **Inspections:**

*First inspection:* After the Applicant's application has been accepted by the NSFGA and prior to planting, the orchard site must be inspected by the HCORP Technical Advisor (TA) to assure compliance with the HCORP Technical & Administrative Guidelines (Guidelines) and the Applicant's 'planting design' as described in his/her application.

*Second Inspection:* Subsequent to planting, a second inspection will be conducted by the TA to assure that the Guidelines have been met. The TA's tree count is based on live and healthy trees at the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inspection.

*Annual Inspections:* The TA will conduct annual spot inspections for the duration of the program to ensure that the Guidelines are being maintained and that technical advice provided is being followed by the producer.

#### 3.8 **Application Procedures:**

*Application Forms:* HCORP application forms must be submitted to the NSFGA office in accordance with the submission schedule below. Each application must be fully completed and include the following supporting documents:

- Orchard Renewal Plan
- Marketing Plan for all cultivars planted
- HCORP Letter of Agreement – this letter must be signed and submitted for each year of planting.

The application package must be submitted to the NSFGA office:

HCORP  
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association  
Agricultural Centre, Kentville, Nova Scotia      B4N 1J5

Applications will be reviewed in the order of their receipt.

Multi-year applications are encouraged for program planning purposes only; applications are accepted on a yearly basis only.

#### **Application Submission Schedule:**

- 2005 planting year      applications due: Oct 31/05.
- 2006 planting year      applications due: Nov 21/05.
- 2007 planting year      applications due: Jul 31/06.
- 2008 planting year      applications due: Jul 31/07.
- 2009 planting year      applications due: Jul 31/08
- 2010 planting year      applications due: Jul 31/09 (depending on the number of applications received there may be funding restrictions to meet program funds available)

### 3.9 Orchard Renewal Plan:

Applicants must submit an Orchard Renewal Plan with their each application. (see attached reference document, "*Planting & Care of the Young Apple Orchard*", Oct 2005). At a minimum, the plan must include descriptions of the following:

- Site preparation and planting design diagram (the site must be fumigated prior to planting if the site was previously in orchard; or, not fumigated if a replant test shows that fumigation is not necessary. ***Payment will not be made for a spring planting on unfumigated land until a separate fall inspection has been completed that shows that the trees planted in the spring are not showing signs of replant disease.***
- Planting densities
- Rootstock
- Support system (if required)
- Identification of pollinizing cultivars

Note: GPS (global positioning system) orchard acreage verification may be required.

**3.10 HCORP Planting Measurement:** HCORP acreage planted will be measured by the Technical Advisor using GPS technology and the resulting data submitted to the HCORP SC.

**3.11 Marketing Plan:** Orderly marketing is required to maintain a consistent premium price for the HCORP fruit produced over the long-term. Applicants must include, with their application, a HCORP Marketing Plan for ***all of the HCORP fruit produced.*** Each Packer that has HCORP participating growers is requested to submit their HCORP marketing plan to the NSFGA office. These plans will be treated as confidential.

**3.12 Letter of Agreement (LOA):** A signed LOA for each planting year must be included with each application (sample attached).

### **Contact Information:**

Dela M. Erith, MBA  
Executive Director & HCORP Program Manager  
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association  
Agricultural Centre  
Kentville, NS B4N 1J5

Tel: 902-678-1093  
Fax: 902-678-1567  
E-mail: derith@nsapples.com