

2026 Ontario Apple Industry

Overview

Apples can be produced in various areas across the province of Ontario due to their more resilient nature regarding winter hardiness (in comparison to tender fruit tree crops). Much of the apple production in Ontario occurs close to large bodies of water (Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Georgian Bay & Lake Huron) due to the natural temperature regulation that great bodies of water pass onto land.

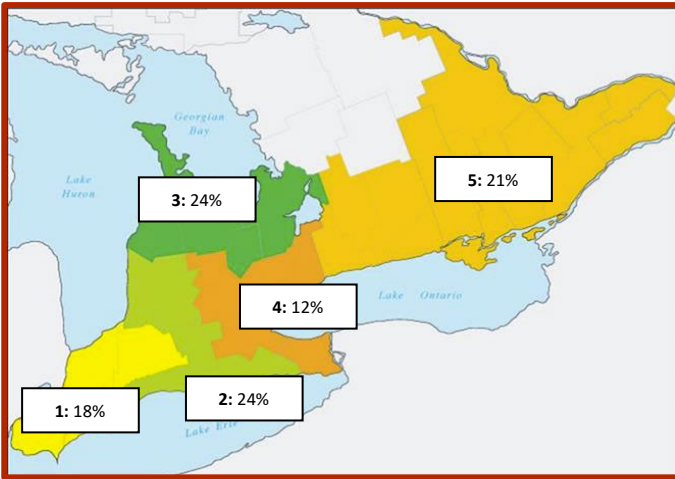


Figure 1. Ontario Apple Growing Districts
Source: Ontario Apple Growers 2025 Annual Report

District Breakdown

District 1 (Western)

Essex, Lambton, Middlesex & Chatham-Kent

District 2 (Central West)

West Huron, Perth, Oxford, Haldimand & Norfolk

District 3 (Northern)

Bruce, Grey, Simcoe & Dufferin

District 4 (Central)

Wellington, Peel, York, Halton, Waterloo, Niagra, Brant, Toronto & Hamilton

District 5 (Eastern)

Durham, Northumberland, Peterborough, Frontenac, Hastings, Lannark, Lennox & Addington, Leeds & Grenville, Renfrew, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, Prescott & Russell, Kawartha Lakes, Ottawa and Prince Edward

Apple Production Numbers

Below are numbers associated with Ontario apple production. Numbers are derived from the 2025 [Ontario Apple Growers Annual Report](#) and from the [Ontario Apple Data Catalogue](#).

Table 1. Cultivar Ranking Based on Acreage

Cultivar	Acreage Rank	Acreage Percent
Gala	1	19.9%
Honeycrisp	2	16%
McIntosh	3	12.2%
Ambrosia	4	11.0%
Red Delicious	5	5.6%

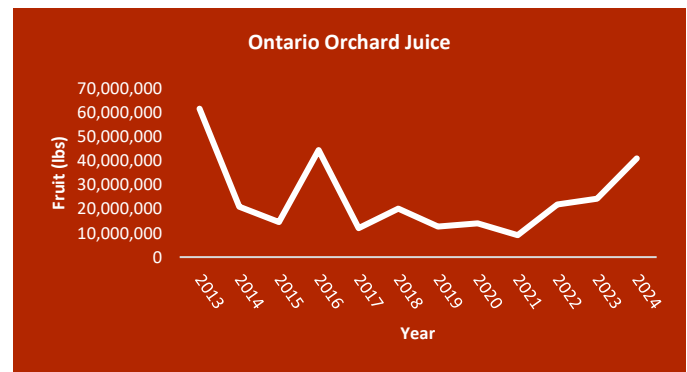
Table 2. Cultivar Ranking Based on Yield

Cultivar	Yield Rank (2025)	Yield Percent
Gala	1	22.0%
Honeycrisp	2	14.3%
Ambrosia	3	12.2%
McIntosh	4	9.3%
Other Late Cultivars	5	5.5%

Table 3. Annual Production & Change

Year	Production	% Change*
2019	324,370,000	-10.4%
2020	357,813,000	+10.3%
2021	290,950,000	-18.7%
2022	385,895,000	+32.6%
2023	389,933,000	+1.0%
2024	397,242,000	+1.9%
2025	326,234,000	-17.9%
5-year average	333,376,000	-0.2%

*change from previous year i.e. ((2022 – 2021)/2021) x 100 = +32.6%



Additional Apple Production Points

- Roughly 90% of apples produced in Ontario are sold into the fresh market (also known as dessert apples).
- Roughly 10% of apples produced in Ontario are used for processing or juice.
- The cultivar that yields the highest grower return in Ontario is Honeycrisp, although yields aren't consistent year to year.

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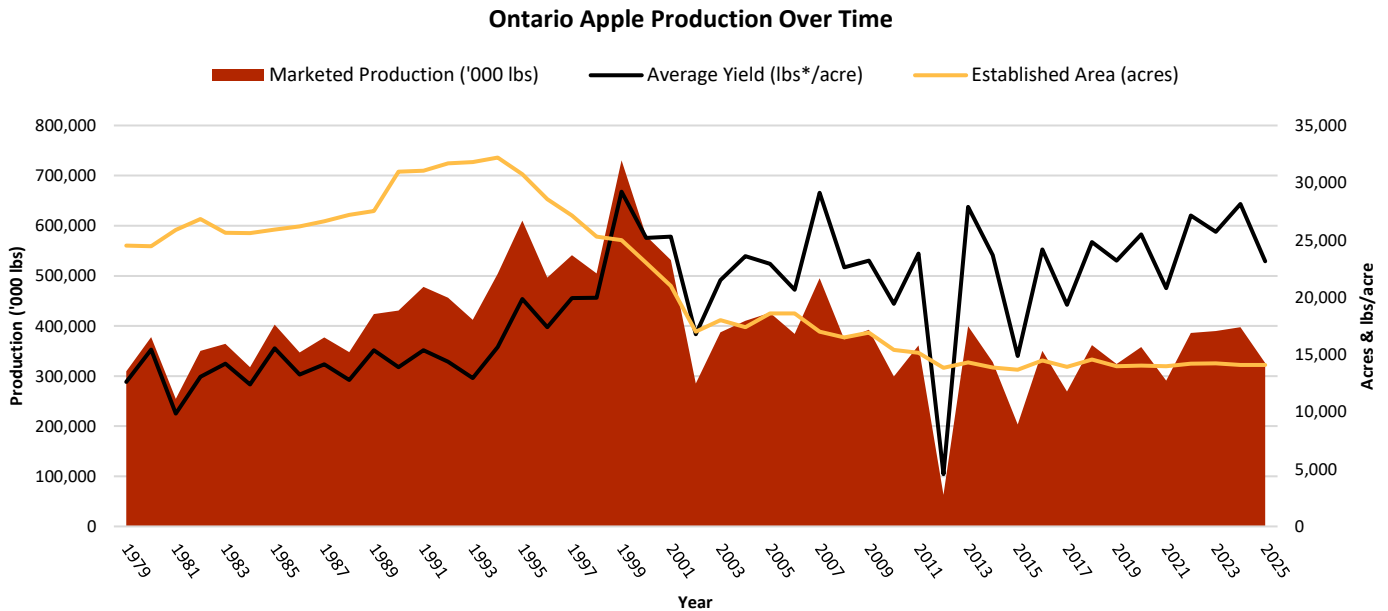


Figure 1. Marketed apple production in Ontario from 1979 to 2025. * '000 lbs

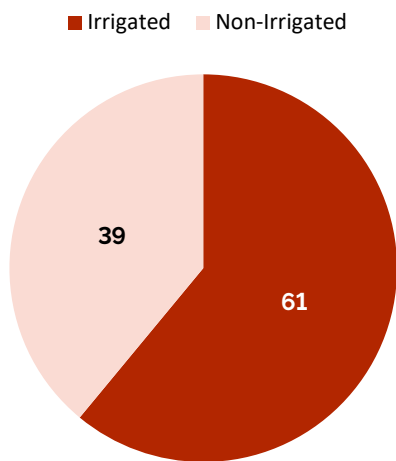


Figure 2. Percent irrigated and non-irrigated apple acreage based on 2025 survey responses.

2025 Irrigation Survey

A total of **57 responses** were collected, representing roughly **41%** of Ontario's total apple acreage (15,850 acres – 2024 OAG Annual Report).

Ontario Apple Production

- Apple production per acre has a general trend of increasing, while established area has decreased over time – plateauing over the past decade.
- Low production years could be caused by weather related occurrences (late frost, hail etc.) and/or biennial bearing nature of certain cultivars.
- High density orchard systems have increased grower returns by increasing fruit quality (colour and size).
- High density orchard systems have increased apple production efficiency (labour, equipment, sunlight interception etc.).

Canadian Fresh Apple Imports

- Canadian apple imports have changed drastically over the past 10 years, with Honeycrisp not being imported into Canada until 2018.
- Gala imports have decreased substantially since 2014 with demand being filled locally.
- Unspecified cultivars have seen an increase of 308% - this could be due to the rise of club cultivars (trademarked/patented).

Table 4. Canadian Fresh Apple Imports (lbs)

Cultivar	2014	2024	10-year average	5-year average	Difference ¹
Honeycrisp	870,646 ²	7,886,711	3,891,283	3,696,324	-194,958
Gala	80,012,865	83,851,657	63,918,584	48,248,879	-15,669,705
Granny Smith	29,956,639	42,448,399	27,926,293	28,710,819	+784,526
Unspecified	29,404,452	120,039,138	41,799,896	54,208,918	+12,409,022
Total	177,688,752	282,043,159	158,944,579	160,375,445	+1,430,866

¹5-year average compared to 10-year average i.e. (5-year – 10-year) = change

²2018 data used for Honeycrisp (first year of imports)