



Investigate the potential of new crop types

Effective support for the agriculture industry involves the investigation of new crop types that have the potential to diversify the agriculture industry in PEI. The Department of Agriculture and Land (DAL) recognizes the important potential that new crop types present for the industry. The Department is working to support this potential through policies, programming and research studies.

New Crop Types – Approach

The Department of Agriculture and Land (DAL) is administering programs that provide support for new crop types. Additionally, the Department is currently planning a comprehensive crop study that will work to address some of the recommendations contained in the University of Prince Edward Island Climate Lab's PEI Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations Report.

Government Commitments

Mandate Letter Ensure that progress is measurable and transparent | Innovate our agriculture and agri-food sectors for success now and into the future | Investigate the potential of new crops

Speech from the Throne Invest strategically in programs and services to enhance our economy | Work with the agriculture industry to innovate and prosper | Work with new technologies and innovation to discover new products

New Crop Types - At a Glance

New or alternative¹ crop types that have been supported through Departmental programming:

Apples, Asparagus, Black Beans, Cannabis, Christmas Trees, Crambe, Grapes, Haskap, Hazelnut, Hemp, Highbush Blueberries, Hops, Lavender, Micro Greens, Peaches, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Strawberries, and Sweet Corn.

Programs that support new or alternative crop types: Perennial Crop Development Program,

Agriculture Research and Innovation Program, Future Farmer Program, Product and Market Development Program, Strategic Industry Growth Initiative (SIGI), and the Agriculture Stewardship Program.

Dollar amount invested in supporting new or alternative crop types (2019/20 to present): Over \$587,328

¹Alternative Crop Types are understood to be “an agronomic crop not usually grown in a geographic region, selected for use due to potential high sale value or specialized benefit to the farming system” (Isleib, J. Michigan State University Extension). In a PEI context, this is often understood as an alternative to a row crop.

OUTPUTS

COMPLETE

Programming to support the agriculture industry in pursuing new crop types.

Guiding policy that supports the Department's decision-making with respect to how best to support specific new crop types.

ONGOING

Planning for a multiyear crop study that will work to address the concerns and recommendations contained in the PEI Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations Report .¹

Increase in human resource capacity that will support the identification of new crop varieties.

¹Island Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations Report. University of Prince Edward Island Climate Lab. Charlottetown, Canada.

Performance and Evaluation | Multiple Lines of Evidence

Performance will be monitored to ensure that progress is measurable, transparent, and informed by the best available evidence. Information and evidence that is analyzed to monitor the investigation of new crop types includes²:

New or alternative crop types that have been supported through Departmental programming | Programs that have provided support for new or alternative crop types | Dollar amount invested in supporting new or alternative crop types

²Performance monitoring metrics will increase as the multiyear crop study is initiated.

