

# BUILDING BRIDGES 2026:

## Knowledge Transfer Roadmap

*Seasonal Tasks, Shared Commitments,  
and Industry Collaboration*



# 2026 Knowledge Transfer Roadmap

## *What We're Doing, When We're Doing It, and How We're Working Together*

In January 2026, about 30 horticultural advisors, industry consultants, academic partners, and government and industry association staff got together to talk about knowledge transfer plans for the season ahead. At this fourth annual 'Building Bridges' event, we agreed on priorities, shared information about our planned activities, and explored ways to collaborate and align efforts across commodities and organizations. Our goal is simple: **to build a team of coordinated, proactive, and accountable knowledge transfer specialists across organizations and commodities.**

Together, we built a roadmap that outlines the who, what, when, and how for knowledge transfer in 2026. It is a practical tool meant to be referenced during planning, shared with our teams, and used to track progress. The roadmap is a living document that will be adapted as new information or challenges arise throughout the year.

### **About the Roadmap**

In the spirit of continual improvement, we are testing a different format for the roadmap this year. Knowledge transfer activities are organized seasonally – dormant to early growth, active growth to pre-harvest, and harvest to dormancy – under five priorities that were identified by the group in 2025. Key orchard and vineyard tasks pulled from the tree fruit and wine grape production guides are included for reference above the activity tables.

By organizing commitments alongside seasonal tasks, this roadmap gives the knowledge transfer team a clear picture of:

- What is top of mind for growers throughout the season
- What support and learning opportunities will be available, and how well they match with grower priorities at that time
- Where efforts overlap or reinforce each other
- How organizations can work together and adjust plans as the year unfolds

### **About the Priorities**

The five priorities used in the 2026 roadmap were identified and refined by the group over the last few years through lengthy discussion and debate. Going forward, the group agreed to review and update the priorities every 3 to 5 years rather than every year.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>The What &amp; Why</b>
Pest Management	Pest management is increasingly challenging due to rising pressures from existing and emerging pests, limited access to new control tools, regulatory barriers, and the impacts of climate change. Fluctuating weather, tighter margins, and a need for more on-the-ground monitoring further strain growers' ability to respond effectively.
Crop Protection & Management	Unpredictable heat and cold events are becoming more extreme, causing serious crop losses. Growers need tools to protect yield, stay prepared, and adapt to climate-related risks. Improving access to US and domestic rootstocks, and making the most of BC-bred varieties, can help build resilience and protect the future of the sector. Education and information about techniques, technologies, and chemical products for crop load management would also go a long way in helping growers improve their overall fruit quality.
Water, Soil, & Nutrient Management	Accurate irrigation is critical for fruit productivity and quality. Climate change is bringing longer growing seasons, higher water demand, and less available water in the future. Competition with other users for water resources means agriculture must quantify their water use and demonstrate responsible management. At the same time, soil health, biology, and carbon levels are changing, affecting how well soil stores water and nutrients.

Business Planning & Risk Management	Many farms are under financial stress. Good business planning helps farms stay profitable, qualify for grant funding, and manage risk. Stronger individual farms make the whole industry more stable and resilient.
HR & Labour	Farms are struggling to find and keep reliable workers. Domestic labour can be inconsistent, and there's growing red tape for bringing in foreign workers, including on-farm housing. Labour is expensive, and the high cost of living in the Okanagan make it harder to attract and support staff. The closure of BC Tree Fruits has also reduced food safety support. At the same time, stress and burnout are growing across the sector.

Together, these five priorities provide a clear, shared focus for coordinated knowledge transfer in 2026. They anchor the seasonal commitments that follow and give organizations a common frame for planning, collaboration, and accountability. As the year unfolds, this roadmap will be updated to reflect new information and emerging needs. For a detailed record of what was delivered last year (actions completed, resources produced, and activities by issue) please see the **2025 Report on Progress** in **Appendix A**.

## January to April (dormant to early growth)

### Seasonal tasks listed in production guides (alphabetical)

- Apply fertilizers and foliar nutrients
- Apply lime (if needed)
- Begin fertigation
- Begin irrigation as needed
- Calibrate sprayers and prepare application equipment
- Check buds, canes, and fruiting wood for winter/cold injury
- Conduct orchard and vineyard planning
- Keep spray, scouting, and pest records up to date
- Manage weeds and orchard/vineyard floor
- Monitor and manage pests and diseases
- Place bees in orchards and follow pollinator-safe practices
- Plant and establish new trees or make vineyard establishment updates
- Prepare and use frost protection if required
- Prune trees and fines, avoid heavy pruning ahead of cold events
- Review irrigation strategy linked to soil health and nutrient availability
- Support staff planning, safety, and ergonomics for spring work
- Undertake winery-related spring tasks (sanitation, sulfur, microbial control)

### Planned knowledge transfer activities

#### Pest Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
BC DAS expansion to wine grapes presentation at SIHS	Feb 11	Barn to Bottle, CCLSP
Powdery mildew presentation (at AGM)	Mar 6	BCCA
Research updates (at AGM)	Mar 6	BCCA
TFFG Updates and session	Apr 9	BCFGA, MAF
Herbicide technology & extension field day	May 19	CCLSP, Pearl Agricultural
BC DAS seasonal info session	Mar 27, Apr 2	CCLSP, Pearl Agricultural, Corteva
Sprayer Calibration Course for Tree Fruits	Mar 30, 31	BCFGA, Pearl Agricultural
Pesticide Applicator Course	Apr 15, 16, 28, 29, 30	BCFGA, Pearl Agricultural
Export program info sessions x 3	Apr 15, 16, 24	BCCA
Packing house export info session	TBD	BCCA
BC DAS factsheet for grapes	TBD	CCLSP, BCWGC, Barn to Bottle
Apple clearwing moth interactions w fungus & abiotic stressors	TBD	AAFC
Viro-vigilance (apples, cherries, peaches, grapes)	TBD	AAFC
Apple rootstock trials	TBD	AAFC
Supporting growers with cover crop trials	TBD	Terralink Horticulture
One-on-one codling moth education	TBD	SIR
Export program moth ID card	TBD	BCCA
SWBC training videos	TBD	BCWGC
Mailouts and factsheets	TBD	Consultants

#### Crop Protection & Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Chemical thinning of apples	Feb 26	BCFGA, Nutrien
Plant growth regulator grower trials	TBD	BCCA
BC DAS demo at grape field day	TBD	BCWGC / BCGA
Hort Hub Webinars	TBD	Syngenta

#### Water, Soil, & Nutrient Management

Activity	Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Irrigation field days	TBD	MAF
Soils 101 workshops	TBD	MAF
UBC Symposium and student presentations	TBD	UBC Okanagan

## Business Planning & Risk Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
APP webinar	Jan 22	BCFGA
CanadaGAP Pollinator Addendum info at SIHS	Feb 11	SIR
Apple marketing BC industry roundtable	Mar 3	BCFGA, AAFC, SIR
Local government delegations	Jan 21, Apr 2	CCLSP
Agriculture bus tours	Apr 8	CCLSP
Apple marketing social media campaign	TBD	BCFGA
Apple marketing grower highlights	TBD	BCFGA
Annual crop assessment report	TBD	BCWGC, BCGA
Annual vintage report	TBD	BCWGC, BCGA
Governance training for industry associations	TBD	MAF

## HR & Labour

Activity	Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Extension practitioners' workshop & career event	TBD	ACARN
Regional labour coordination project	Apr 13	CCLSP, BCFGGA

## May to August (active growth to pre-harvest)

### Seasonal tasks listed in production guides (alphabetical)

- Adjust irrigation or deficit-irrigation as needed
- Apply supplemental nutrient sprays
- Conduct crop estimates and yield planning
- Conduct soil and tissue testing
- Continue canopy work (shoot thinning, leaf removal, hedging)
- Continue disease, insect, and pest control
- Evaluate fruit maturity (including sugar/acidity levels)
- Hand-thin fruit (where needed)
- Maintain winery sanitation and pre-harvest prep
- Manage wildfire and emergency readiness
- Monitor growth stages (bloom, fruit set, veraison, ripening)
- Perform vineyard/orchard maintenance (replacing posts, general cleanup)
- Plan for harvest (crew, supplies, logistics)
- Plan for new plantings or vineyard updates
- Prepare for late-season transitions and dormancy
- Remove weak, diseased, or dead trees
- Train young trees
- Update workforce plans (hiring for harvest, safety, customer-facing operations)

### Planned knowledge transfer activities

#### Pest Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Pesticide Handler Course	Jun 1, 2, 9, 10	BCFGA, Pearl Agricultural
Bird deterrent resource book	Jul	CCLSP, ACARN
Updated PAC point tracking system	Aug	CCLSP, BCFGGA
Apple clearwing moth netting (5 farms participating)	TBD	AAFC
Field sampling & review	TBD	Consultants
Export program orchard visits	TBD	BCCA
X disease survey for stone fruits	TBD	

#### Crop Protection & Management

Activity	Date (if known)	Lead(s)
Grower field day	Aug	BCCA
New variety tastings	Aug	BCCA, AAFC
Summerland Research Centre Open House	Sep	AAFC
Grower tailgates	TBD	BCFGA, Nutrien
Mechanical defoliating trials	TBD	CFP
Researcher tour of BC vineyards from BC, ON, CA, WA to learn needs	TBD	AAFC, UBCO, MAF
Export program orchard visits	TBD	BCCA
X disease survey for stone fruits	TBD	

## September to December (harvest to dormancy)

### Seasonal tasks listed in production guides (alphabetical)

- Apply nutrients as needed
- Apply stop-drop sprays (apples)
- Begin dormant pruning
- Blow out irrigation lines and address post-harvest irrigation risks
- Conduct canopy and crop-load management
- Conduct crop tests (fruit maturity, grape sugars/acids)
- Conduct soil testing after harvest
- Continue disease, insect, and pest control (including Botrytis and late-season issues)
- Harvest fruit and grapes
- Manage wildlife risks (frost, deer, birds, bears)
- Monitor vine and tree stages (veraison, ripening, harvest, dormancy)
- Perform vineyard/orchard maintenance (replace posts, cleanup)
- Plan harvest logistics (crew, supplies, harvest sheets)
- Prepare for new plantings
- Record freezing temperatures through fall and early winter
- Remove weak, diseased, or dead trees
- Review winery sanitation, water use, and pre-winter protocols
- Support customer-facing winery/tasting-room operations and traceability needs
- Support winery sanitation, microbial control, and food-safety practices
- Use a sustainability lens for winter preparation (soil, water, wildlife, input reduction)

### Planned knowledge transfer activities

#### Crop Protection & Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Tree fruit production guide modernization	TBD	BCFGA, CCLSP
Provincial grape pruning guide	TBD	MAF, UBCO, ON

#### Water, Soil, & Nutrient Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Annual virtual workshop	TBD	ACARN

#### Business Planning & Risk Management

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Agriculture bus tour	Nov	CCLSP
2025/2025 acreage report	TBD	BCWGC / BCGA
How to write funding applications	TBD	Community Futures

#### HR & Labour

Activity	2026 Date(s) (if known)	Lead(s)
Science communications training	TBD	ACARN

# Appendix A: 2025 Report on Progress

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<p><b><u>Pest Management</u></b></p> <p>Pest management is increasingly challenging due to rising pressures from existing and emerging pests, limited access to new control tools, regulatory barriers, and the impacts of climate change. Fluctuating weather, tighter margins, and a need for more on-the-ground monitoring further strain growers' ability to respond effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAFC – Apple clearwing interactions with fungus and abiotic stressors</li> <li>• AAFC - Apple clearwing netting and phenology work</li> <li>• BCCA – export pest of concern ID booklets</li> <li>• BCFGa – partnership with Canadian IPM toolbox</li> <li>• BCFGa – Submissions to PMRA on emergency registration and regulatory changes/proposals</li> <li>• BCFGa/BCCA – participation in national minor use meetings</li> <li>• BCFGa/BCMAF – TFPG industry meeting</li> <li>• BCFGa/CCLSP – Access to plant material project</li> <li>• BCFGa/CCLSP – TFPG Updates</li> <li>• BCFGa/Pearl - Pesticide Applicator Certificate Course</li> <li>• BCFGa/Pearl/SIR – Sprayer calibration field days</li> <li>• BCMAF – Cover crop ID book</li> <li>• BCMAF - Orchard Plant Health Updates (virtual info session)</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday – Ilarvirus diagnostic in grapes (webinar)</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday - Intro and update on the grape entomology program at AAFC</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursdays – Powdery mildew and botrytis rot in vineyards (webinar)</li> <li>• BCWGC/BCMAF – production guide spray schedule</li> <li>• CCLSP/BCWGC – BCDAS grape models in beta</li> <li>• CGNC - Clean plant FAQ and toolkit</li> <li>• Improving access to new products (minor-use registration)</li> <li>• ISCBC – Invasive insects in BC orchards and vineyards (webinar)</li> <li>• ISCBC – Invasive species in agriculture workshop</li> <li>• Quality Analytical Services Ltd. - Pesticide Residue Testing (webinar)</li> <li>• SIHS – Apple clearwing moth research updates</li> <li>• SIHS – Grasshoppers and invasives education</li> <li>• Terralink etc – Advocating for label expansions and recommending solutions (i.e. azadirachtin)</li> </ul>

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<p><b><u>Business Planning &amp; Risk Management</u></b></p> <p>Many farms are under financial stress. Good business planning helps farms stay profitable, qualify for grant funding, and manage risk. Stronger individual farms make the whole industry more stable and resilient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAFC - Roundtable on clean energy</li> <li>• AAFC - Value added research lab (apples and cherry waste)</li> <li>• Agristability Towards Increased Profits Report</li> <li>• BCCA - Grower/packer export requirement meetings</li> <li>• BCCA &amp; MAF - BRM info session</li> <li>• BCCA market access to Mexico, Brazil, and Australia</li> <li>• BCCA/CFIA – My CFIA (webinar)</li> <li>• BCFGAs – Apple Industry Roundtable for marketing</li> <li>• BCFGAs/CFIA - Apple industry audit for Taiwan</li> <li>• BuyBC and Canada Brand industry presentation (in-person presentation)</li> <li>• CFIA – Digitizing registration info sessions (webinar)</li> <li>• CFIA - Wine labelling workshop for imported grapes</li> <li>• EFP advisors added</li> <li>• ERP Business management training</li> <li>• Global Affairs Canada - Navigating CUSMA trade rules (workshop)</li> <li>• Katie Sardinha - Reshaping our food system (in-person presentation)</li> <li>• Okanagan food hub (Summerland)</li> <li>• SCAP - Program improvement sessions (webinar)</li> <li>• Trade Commissioner Service - Best practices for US exports (webinar)</li> <li>• UBC - Agrifood business management micro credential proposal ongoing</li> </ul>

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<p><b><u>HR &amp; Labour</u></b></p> <p>Farms are struggling to find and keep reliable workers. Domestic labour can be inconsistent, and there's growing red tape for bringing in foreign workers, including on-farm housing. Labour is expensive, and the high cost of living in the Okanagan make it harder to attract and support staff. The closure of BC Tree Fruits has also reduced food safety support. At the same time, stress and burnout are growing across the sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AgSafe - AgLife connector training</li> <li>• AgSafe – Progressive discipline (webinar)</li> <li>• BC4H agriservice tour (new exposure to research and relationships)</li> <li>• BCAC / AgSafe - Emergency awareness for growers (webinar)</li> <li>• BCCA employment directory</li> <li>• BCFGA – Updates on labour issues and seasonal ag programs</li> <li>• BCWGC comms on mental health (socials and newsletter)</li> <li>• CAHRC webinars and HR supports for growers</li> <li>• CCLSP/BCFGA – Regional labour coordination</li> <li>• Crew boss contacts</li> <li>• Hillcrest Market - FairPick scale demo</li> <li>• LocalMotive - Field to Future: Youth experience workshops</li> <li>• MAF updating TFWH guidance to local governments</li> <li>• OrganicBC/CanadaGAP – On farm food safety workshops</li> <li>• The Future is Food: Surprising career opportunities in agriculture and agri-food (webinar)</li> <li>• UBC - Sustainable viticulture micro credential proposal</li> <li>• Young Agrarians – Landing sharing workshop</li> </ul>

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<p><b><u>Water, Soil, Nutrient Management</u></b></p> <p>Accurate irrigation is critical for fruit productivity and quality. Climate change is bringing longer growing seasons, higher water demand, and less available water in the future. Competition with other users for water resources means agriculture must quantify their water use and demonstrate responsible management. At the same time, soil health, biology, and carbon levels are changing, affecting how well soil stores water and nutrients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAFC - Biodiversity in the vineyard tours</li> <li>• ACARN - Land to lab virtual workshop</li> <li>• Agrowest - Soil Health Series (webinar)</li> <li>• BC Living labs</li> <li>• BCAC – Ag Day on water, land, and labour</li> <li>• BCIA - N is nitrogen 2.0 series (webinar)</li> <li>• BCMAF – cover crop ID cards</li> <li>• BCMAF – Interpreting your soil test report (webinar)</li> <li>• BCMAF - Nutrient management plan training</li> <li>• BCMAF – On farm composting field days</li> <li>• BCMAF back to basic videos</li> <li>• BCMAF/Southern Irrigation – Field days</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday - Remote sensing technique to determine variations in vigour/quality (webinar)</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursdays – Ground cover management in European vineyards</li> <li>• Case studies for early adopters of new systems</li> <li>• Farmwest – cover crop GDD calculator</li> <li>• IAF – Agriculture water infrastructure program</li> <li>• Organic BC – Field days</li> <li>• Regenerative Geo Services - Biochar burn demos</li> <li>• SWBC – Social and news posts on importance of soil and tissue sampling</li> <li>• Terralink – Soil/tissue sampling and nutrient education workshops and tailgates</li> <li>• UBC – Black Mountain irrigation district project (scoping)</li> <li>• UBC – Deficit irrigation research (Knipfer/Castellarin)</li> <li>• UBC – on farm research on cover crop, soil, smoke taint (Hart, Sharifi, Urbez-Tores, Zandberg)</li> <li>• Verdi – Irrigation field demos</li> <li>• Vintality - Field demos</li> </ul>

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<p><b><u>Crop Protection &amp; Management</u></b></p> <p>Unpredictable heat and cold events are becoming more extreme, causing serious crop losses. Growers need tools to protect yield, stay prepared, and adapt to climate-related risks. Improving access to US and domestic rootstocks, and making the most of BC-bred varieties, can help build resilience and protect the future of the sector. Education and information about techniques, technologies, and chemical products for crop load management would also go a long way in helping growers improve their overall fruit quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAFC – Apple rootstock technical document (Hao Xu)</li> <li>• ACARN – Cultivating Resilience Summit</li> <li>• Additional Terralink location &amp; agrologist</li> <li>• BCCA – variety list on website</li> <li>• BCFGA/CCLSP – Access to plant material project</li> <li>• BCFGA/CCLSP – TFPG Updates</li> <li>• BCFGA/IAF – Crop profile updates</li> <li>• BCGA - Annual pruning workshop</li> <li>• BCMAF - Tree fruit climate resiliency program (webinar)</li> <li>• BCMAF/AAFC – Sprayable products and covered systems projects</li> <li>• BCMAF/IAF replant checklist</li> <li>• BCMAF/Pearl - Sprayer Calibration Course</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday – BC DAS for grapes (webinar)</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday – Grapevine winter cold damage impact survey (webinar)</li> <li>• BCWGC Third Thursday – Smoke exposure update (webinar)</li> <li>• Connecting researchers/manufacturers of new and existing products (drought)</li> <li>• Nutrien – Product trials and tailgates (Accede)</li> <li>• Retailer participation in Clean Farm Program (greater communication)</li> <li>• SIHS - Cold protection sprays presentations</li> <li>• UBC – Ongoing rootstock research (Murch/Hall)</li> <li>• UBC/NSERC Alliance – Resilient viticulture in Canadian desert proposal</li> <li>• UBCO - Climate &amp; Water Research Symposium</li> <li>• Wine Frontiers: Viticulture’s search for cooler climes (webinar)</li> </ul>

Key Issue	2025 Progress Made
<b><u>Other / Emerging</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAFC Commodity Days (cherry, grapes)</li> <li>• AAFC relationship building with national apple groups</li> <li>• ACARN - Seeding Success: Science communications workshop</li> <li>• ACARN/CCLSP – Research briefs &amp; videos</li> <li>• Apple Marketing Commission Consultations</li> <li>• BCWGC - Grape and Wine Research Users Meeting</li> <li>• BCWGC – Website updates</li> <li>• BCWGC/BCWA – Online member portal integration</li> <li>• CCLSP - Agriculture in Action Tour</li> <li>• MAF – Cross-provincial collaboration with other grape/TF specialists</li> <li>• MAF/FIRB – Farm complaint support and education</li> <li>• OC/UBC/AAFC – Wine research collaboration workshop</li> <li>• SWBC – Social media</li> <li>• Terralink technical support for customers</li> <li>• WGITF launch</li> </ul>