



## Atlantic Cool Climate Crop Research Centre

### St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

The Atlantic Cool Climate Crop Research Centre (ACCCRC) is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) national network of 19 research centres. The Centre is located in St. John's, the provincial capital of Newfoundland and Labrador, and is recognized as a centre of excellence among the province's agricultural communities. Current research focuses on integrated pest management, molecular biology and plant propagation, land improvement, nutrient management and high-value crop research.

The role of the ACCCRC is to develop technologies which diversify and add value to rural economies in cool summer regions. The research emphasizes developing improved crops and crop production technologies that reduce costs while ensuring efficient crop production. The Centre operates a field research site in nearby Avondale for studies on high-value crops. The Centre has strong linkages with the provincial agri-food sector, universities and industry associations.

### Areas of Research

The ACCCRC is the focal point of agricultural activities in Newfoundland and Labrador and is a centre of excellence in the development of agriculture in the region.

#### Farming Practices to Preserve the Environment

- Conducting research on drainage and irrigation systems to better manage water resources
- Managing production methods and soil resources for crops such as silage corn grown in cool climates
- Assessing and mitigating the effects on the environment of farming operations such as the long term application of liquid dairy manure to forage crops
- Developing strategies to manage the effects of pests on various crops, including using new technologies such as gene identification for ways to combat the cabbage maggot
- Evaluating natural, non-chemical alternatives for pest control such as crop rotations or planting a dense vegetation ground cover to repel pests such as the cabbage maggot in Brassica crops

## Getting Results with Versatile Crop Farming

- Developing laboratory-based techniques to produce berries and medicinal plants for commercial production
- Using conventional and discovering new laboratory-based plant breeding technologies to develop superior berry varieties as well as medicinal plants
- Conducting research on cereals and forages to feed livestock more efficiently
- Conducting research and developing new production systems for medicinal herbs, berries and native plants, and enabling crop production diversity in regions with cool summer climates
- Conducting research and reporting plant components that can be used as food supplements or have other applications with beneficial health effects

## Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 5 research scientists and a total staff of 37
- 61 hectares at the headquarters site; 14 hectares at the Avondale field research location
- Climate-controlled growth chambers, greenhouses and crop drying facilities
- Soil and analytical chemistry lab
- Micropropagation lab and molecular biology lab
- Entomology lab
- Co-located at the Centre are:
  - AAFC Regional Office
  - Provincial Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources – Agrifoods Branch
  - Newfoundland and Labrador Livestock Council
  - Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture
  - Newfoundland and Labrador Horticulture Producers Council
  - Chicken Farmers of Canada

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