



# Science and Innovation



## The Horticulture Research and Development Centre

**Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec**

The Horticulture Research and Development Centre (HRDC) is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's network of 19 research centres. Located in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, the Centre's mandate is to conduct research in the areas of sustainable production, pest management and preserving the quality of crops and horticulture after harvesting. Scientists specialize in market garden crops, tree fruits, small fruits, ornamental shrubs and new crops.

Scientists at HRDC focus on ways to develop and transfer knowledge, and to produce technologies and innovative products while striving to protect the environment, preserve human health and minimize risks for producers. The Centre's qualified and experienced researchers also carry out collaborative work with university researchers and government colleagues. The Centre manages three research sub-stations at L'Acadie and Sainte-Clotilde, which specialize in mineral soil and organic soil horticulture research, and Frelighsburg which operates a variety of orchards for research.

### Areas of Research

The HRDC specializes in field vegetable crops and conducts research into the production, protection and conservation of horticultural commodities.

#### Science-Based Practices for Crop Production and Pest Control

- Exploring methods to improve accuracy when spraying crops
- Applying remote sensing tools to use fertilizers more efficiently
- Conducting research into alternatives to chemical pesticides, using synthetic alternatives and pesticides derived from natural materials
- Managing crop pests using natural predators and micro-organisms
- Conducting research on non-chemical (physical or mechanical) methods to control parasites and weeds

## Creating, Capturing and Delivering Value

- Investigating new technologies to manage field-grown and greenhouse crops
- Developing testing and forecasting systems to protect crops from pests
- Characterizing the molecular profile of Bacillaceae species
- Discovering improved methods for handling fruits and vegetables, and for maintaining their quality after harvest
- Developing fruits and vegetables that have properties for promoting health beyond their basic nutritional value
- Producing new plant, fruit and vegetable varieties such as lettuce, strawberry and apple
- Developing new rose varieties which are hardy for the Canadian climate

## Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 19 research scientists and a total staff of 147
- Main site is located in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec
- Three research sub-stations at L'Acadie, Frelighsburg and Sainte-Clotilde, Quebec. These sites comprise a total of 246 hectares of land, characterized by clay, sandy loam and organic soils
- Resources: laboratories, greenhouses, growth chambers, cold rooms and a spraying room, all of which have leading-edge equipment

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