

## 2022 Estimated Canadian Potato Plantings (Acres)

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0358-01

Province	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	<b>2022</b>	Change
Newfoundland	350	350	350	325	325	325	300	<b>-8%</b>
Prince Edward Is.	87,000	84,200	86,000	85,500	83,600	86,000	80,500	<b>-6.4%</b>
Nova Scotia	1,774	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,200	1,200	800	<b>-33.4%</b>
New Brunswick	47,630	51,700	52,000	52,900	48,540	53,000	51,800	<b>-2.3%</b>
Quebec	41,761	42,255	41,956	43,508	45,924	46,886	50,748	<b>8.2%</b>
Ontario	34,800	35,400	34,000	34,027	36,500	38,325	37,180	<b>-3.0%</b>
Manitoba	65,914	62,900	64,100	70,000	71,500	78,000	79,500	<b>1.9%</b>
Sask.	6,900	6,500	6,300	6,300	6,000	6,200	6,000	<b>-3.2%</b>
Alberta	52,986	52,483	55,645	61,235	59,677	68,450	72,300	<b>5.6%</b>
British Columbia	7,250	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,500	6,500	6,000	<b>-7.7%</b>
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>346,415</b>	<b>343,988</b>	<b>348,551</b>	<b>362,095</b>	<b>359,766</b>	<b>384,886</b>	<b>385,128</b>	<b>0.06%</b>

**July 15, 2022**

Statistics Canada released their first estimate of potato acreage in Canada as a result of data obtained from their survey of potato growers in Canada.

The 2022 potato acreage is estimated at 385,128 acres. This is almost flat compared to 2021, only 242 acres more than last year. In 2021 acreage had seen a big increase over 2020, and even the pre-COVID year 2019, predominantly in the major processing provinces, bringing supply back to meet demand increases in the industry that began pre-COVID. However, due to significant rises in input costs, fertilizer and fuel predominantly, coupled with increased holding levels in some of the Eastern provinces, we have seen reduced seeded acreage in 2022.

The largest acreage increase in 2022 was reported in Quebec, planting an additional 3,862 acres representing an 8.2% increase over last year. However, due to an overabundance of rain combined with cool temperatures throughout the planting season, Quebec has advised that this number may not likely be realized as harvested acres, similar to certain other regions across Canada.

The only other increases in acreage in Canada this year, although not as significant as in 2021, still occurred in the western provinces of Alberta and Manitoba. Alberta producers planted an additional 3,850 acres or an increase of 5.6%, not quite as high as the additional 7,823 acres in 2021. Manitoba growers planted an additional 1,500 acres or 1.9% above 2021.

The largest decrease in acreage in 2022 was not surprisingly found in PEI, a reduction of 5,500 acres, a drop of 6.4%. With seed movement to other provinces still blocked by CFIA, and greatly increased production costs, many farmers either moved to other crops where pricing and demand was more certain, or were simply not able, or not willing, to plant in 2022.

There were other decreases more significant in percentage, but not in actual acres, as the PEI decrease, namely a 33.4% drop in Nova Scotia equaling 400 acres; a decrease of only 25 acres in Newfoundland but that was an 8% decline in this region; and BC saw their seeded acres go down by 500 acres equating to a 7.7% drop over 2021. If we look at the data back to 2016, Nova Scotia and

Newfoundland have been in a slight but steady decline, but BC has remained fairly steady with their decrease this year more related to heavy rains and cold temperatures during planting. With the added pressures of steep increases in costs this year and variable weather with climate change, and even generational changeovers, the reductions in these areas with smaller overall acreage may not be surprising, and do not have a large impact on the overall production of potatoes in Canada.

Acreage in Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick all saw slight decreases in overall acreage compared to 2021, but were all still higher or at least equal to 2020 levels during COVID and still well in line with levels going back to 2016.

It is important to note that the acreage levels in the 2022 Canadian Potato Crop are not unexpected due to the current challenges in the industry including the sharp inclines in cost of production and the availability and cost of freight, and are reflected in areas that did have higher holdings from last season's good crop.

The UPGC relies on this data to provide further statistics on production, harvested acres, holding reports, etc. important to our industry, the continued diligence of both Statistics Canada to conduct the survey, and the growers who took the time to respond to it, is very much appreciated.

Our next opportunity for revision of these figures will be in December when the Canadian Potato Production Estimates are released by Stats Canada.

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