

What is a Specialty Crop Area?

A specialty crop area is an area designated using guidelines by the Province where specialty crops such as tender fruits, grapes, vegetable crops, and greenhouse crops are predominantly grown usually resulting from:

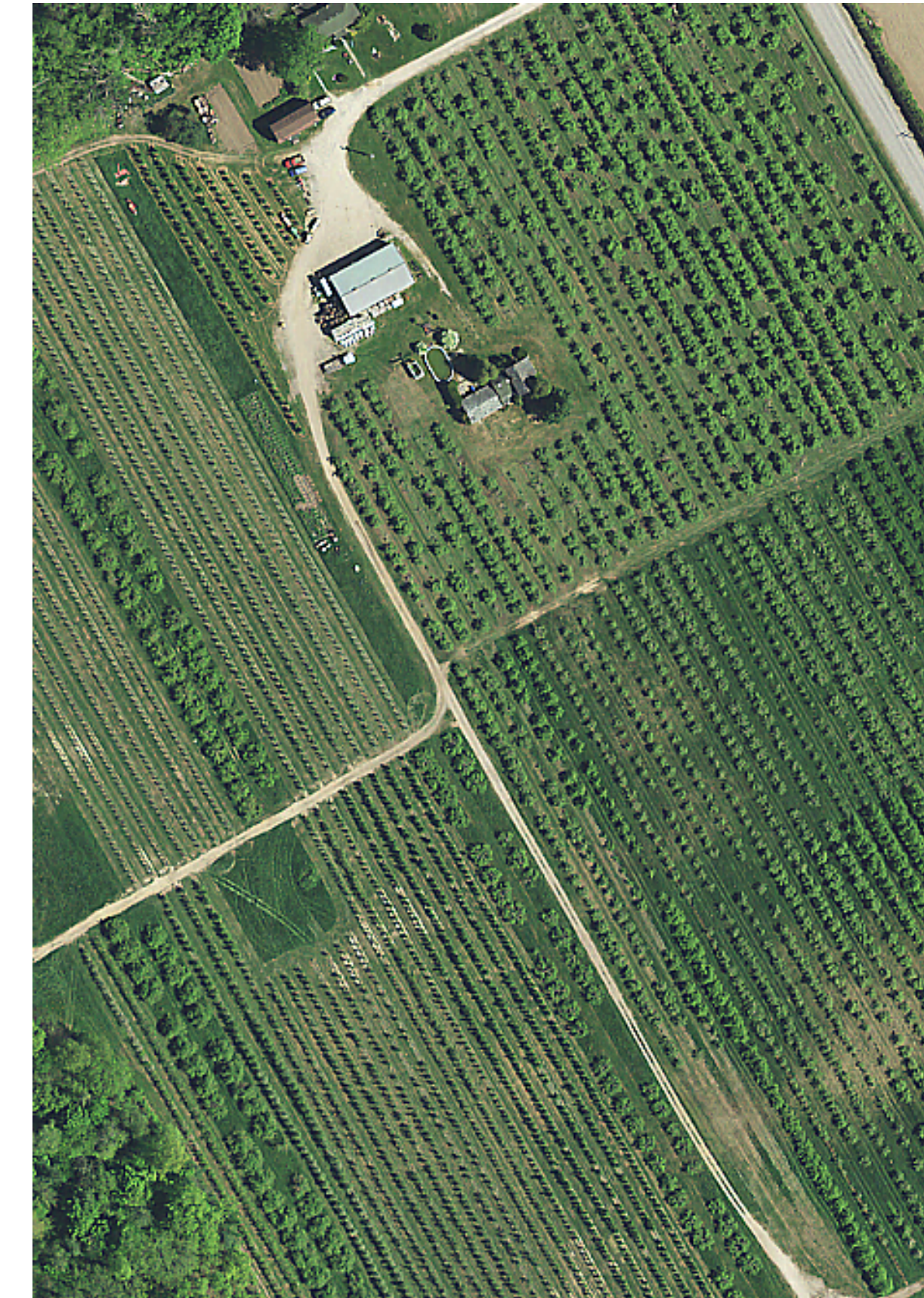
- Soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops and lands that are subject to special climatic conditions or a combination of both; and
- A combination of farmers skilled in production of specialty crops; and
- A long-term investment of capital in areas such as crops, drainage, infrastructure and related facilities and services to produce, store or process specialty crops.

The commercial production of these crops is possible due to a combination of:

- suitable soil and/or special climatic conditions
- farmers skilled in growing these crops
- capital investments into areas such as:perennial rootstock
- workers' accommodations
- storage, processing and distribution facilities
- drainage or irrigation infrastructure
- equipment

Current Provincial policy gives specialty crop areas the highest priority for protection because they:

- are scarce and unique; if lost, they cannot be recreated
- are important economically (jobs, diversification of the economy)
- represent some of Ontario's highest earning agricultural lands
- provide many value-added and agri-tourism opportunities



Did You Know?

Norfolk Count is the largest producer of numerous crops in Canada



Asparagus, Squash, Zucchini, Pumpkins, Ginseng, Tart Cherries



Peppers, Cucumbers



Cabbage