



Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)

What is GAP?

“Good Agricultural Practices” or “GAP” is a management system used to ensure the safety of food products from production through to the consumer.

Why is GAP important?

Many high value horticulture crops such as fruits, vegetables and nuts are often eaten raw. As such, good production and handling practices are important to reduce micro-organisms (like bacteria) to ensure the safety and health of consumers.



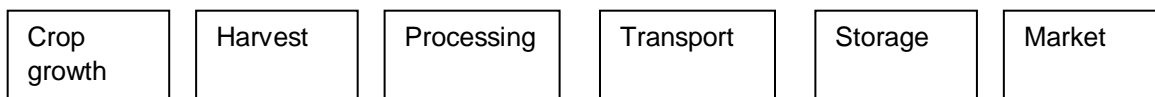
GAP ensures consumers have safe healthy high quality food.

How is GAP implemented?

The key elements of GAP are:

Element	Example considerations
Water	Where does the water used for growth and processing come from and what is its quality?
Soil Amendments	How are manures and composted materials managed to avoid product contamination in the field?
Physical Location	Is there potential contamination due to run-off from other fields or the presence of animals?
Personnel	Are staff trained in hygiene and safe practices and do they follow these?
Sanitary Facilities	Are adequate facilities provided for bathroom breaks and hand washing?
Field Sanitation	How is product handled in the field to avoid contamination?
Packing shed sanitation	Are the packing shed facilities adequate and kept clean? Does the product flow logically to avoid contamination?
Cleansers and Sanitizers	Are sanitizers properly and safely used to clean packing shed and product?

Safe practices are required from crop production to market.



The Cornell and UC Davis GAP programs provide self audit opportunities for learning the key principles of GAP. Please visit: http://groups.ucanr.org/UC_GAPs/GAP_Self-Audits/

Select GAP resources:

Food Safety begins on the Farm. <http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/documents/edumat/FSBFEngLOW.pdf>

Key Points – Horticulture Products (UC Davis) http://ucanr.edu/sites/GAP/Key_Points/Key_Points_-_Horticultural_Products/

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For more information visit: e-China Apple <http://echina-apple.com>

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