



A Rich Agricultural Heritage

Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to a diverse and thriving agricultural industry that has shaped the region's identity for generations. From vineyards to orchards, local farms play a vital role in food production, sustainability, and the economy. Whether enjoying fresh seasonal produce, witnessing the beauty of cherry blossoms in spring, or learning about innovative farming practices, there's always something to appreciate about NOTL's farmlands.



Seasons & Crop Production

Every season brings new life to NOTL's farmland, beginning in spring when fruit trees burst into bloom. Cherry, peach, and nectarine trees display stunning pink blossoms, while plum trees feature delicate white flowers. During this time, farmers contract beekeepers to bring in honeybees for pollination, an essential process that **supports nearly 60% of the world's food supply.**

As the season progresses, NOTL's farms produce an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables that are shipped across Ontario, throughout Canada, and internationally. **Ontario distributes between 50,000 and 80,000 tonnes of grapes annually. Additionally, Niagara produces almost 30,000 tonnes of tender fruit annually.**



If taking photos, be sure to ask the farmer's permission and keep a respectful distance.



Sustainability & Environmental Practices

-  Many growers are converting to drip irrigation systems for improved efficiency and food safety. Water cannons can lose up to 40% of water to evaporation. Although installation costs an average of \$3,000 per acre, the long-term savings are substantial.
-  In the winter, farmers prefer sand over salt to protect crops and trees, just as road crews use alternatives for winter road maintenance. This reduces the salt's impact on plants and the environment while keeping roads safe.
-  Farmers use cow, duck, and mushroom compost annually to naturally enrich the soil, improving organic matter and sustainability.
-  Many farms use solar panels and other sustainable technologies to reduce their environmental impact.



Protecting Crops: Weather, Disease & Pest Control

Challenges from frost, pests, and birds, require innovative solutions to protect crops.

- Bird bangers are timed propane-powered devices that produce loud gunshot-like sounds to scare away birds.
- Green lasers are a newer, high-tech bird deterrent.
- Pesticide, disease, and invasive species control involves farmers working with licensed experts to monitor crop health, insect populations, and impacts from invasive species. Treatments are applied only when necessary. Spraying is typically done before rainfall.
- Wind machines are used in vineyards and orchards to pull warm air down and mix it with cooler ground air, reducing frost damage in winter and early spring.



The Art of Ice Wine

NOTL is world-renowned for ice wine, a specialty product that requires precise conditions. Grapes remain on the vine until temperatures drop to -10°C, at which point they are harvested and pressed while still frozen. This process concentrates sugars, creating a uniquely rich and sweet wine. Niagara is the most consistent producer of ice wine in the world!



Farming & Community

Farming in NOTL is more than just crops, it's about the people who make it possible.

Migrant Workers: Essential to NOTL Agriculture

Every year, hundreds of skilled migrant workers arrive in NOTL to support local farms. Some workers have been returning for over 25 years, forming close bonds with the community. These individuals are highly trained and play an invaluable role in maintaining productive farms.



 Please keep in mind that farm vehicles need space and patience on roads as they are working to keep farms running.



Support Local

Supporting local farms means more than just enjoying fresh produce, it helps sustain NOTL's farming heritage, strengthens the local economy, and promotes environmentally responsible food choices.

- ✓ **Fresher, higher-quality food.**
- ✓ **Reduce carbon footprint of imported produce.**
- ✓ **Strengthen local economy.**
- ✓ **Direct connection to farmers and community.**

Visit farm stands, farmers' markets, and local restaurants that source NOTL-grown ingredients to help sustain the Town's farming community and celebrate NOTL's hardworking farmers!