



The Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 and the Global Good Agriculture Practices (GlobalG.A.P.) Integrated Farm Assurance Guidelines for Fruit and Vegetables (v6)

The Leading Harvest Standard Program 2020 (“LH Standard”) is a third-party audited certification program that provides assurance for the sustainability of farmland management. The LH Standard was designed to harmonize with other sustainability programs and frameworks, such as GlobalG.A.P., to create more transparency, efficiency, and greater outcomes for agriculture. The following GlobalG.A.P. practices are from its Integrated Farm Assurance Guidelines for Fruit and Vegetables (v6).

Participation in GlobalG.A.P. IFA for fruit and vegetables goes a long way to aligning to the LH Standard. GlobalG.A.P. aligns with 18 out of 22 (82%) of the LH Standard requirements. Of the 18 requirements that are aligned, 9 are generally aligned with the LH Standard while 9 are narrowly aligned.

GlobalG.A.P. Requirements	General Alignment with LH Standard	Partial Alignment with LH Standard	No Alignment with LH Standard
1. Continuous Improvement Plan	LH Standard requires management commitment to continuous improvement and annual review and improvement		
2. Human Resource Management and Training	LH Standard requires adequate training for personnel and employees		
3. Subcontractors		LH Standard requires a safe and healthy working environment for personnel and employees	
4. Equipment Management and Calibration		LH Standard requires use of technologies and application of regional agricultural best management practices where appropriate and in compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations	
5. Food Defense			LH Standard does not address food defense
6. Food Fraud		LH Standard requires compliance with applicable federal, state, or local laws, statutes, and regulations	
7. Risk Assessment		LH Standard requires a management review system and annual review of progress	
8. Mitigating Microbial Risks During Growing and Handling		LH Standard requires a management review system and annual review of progress	
9. Provision of Toilets to Workers		LH Standard requires maintenance of a safe and respectful working environment	
10. Biodiversity	LH Standard requires conservation of biodiversity where appropriate and commitment to avoid land use conversion		
11. Waste Management System	LH Standard requires management of waste and agricultural chemicals in compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations		
12. Water Management	LH Standard requires operations to protect water resources and manage water use efficiency for continuous improvement		
13. Integrated Pest Management—Development/Retention of Basic Knowledge	LH Standard requires operations to implement an Integrated Pest Management program using best management practices		
14. Integrated Pest Management Plan		LH Standard requires implementation of an Integrated Pest Management program. Implementing these GlobalG.A.P. practices may be part of conformance to the Standard.	
15. Integrated Pest Management—Preventative Measures		LH Standard requires implementation of an Integrated Pest Management program. Implementing these GlobalG.A.P. practices may be part of conformance to the Standard.	
16. Integrated Pest Management—Monitoring, Scouting, and Decision-making	LH Standard requires operations to implement an Integrated Pest Management program and monitoring of pests to prevent crop loss		
17. Integrated Pest Management—Intervention	LH Standard requires operations to implement an Integrated Pest Management program and use lowest risk, most selective treatment options		
18. Integrated Pest Management—Anti-resistance			LH Standard does not address anti-resistance management
19. Plant Protection Product Extrapolation	LH Standard requires adherence to label instructions and regulatory requirements for application and storage of crop protectants		
20. Residue Testing and Maximum Residue Limit Exceedance Risk Assessment			LH Standard does not address maximum residue limits
21. Controlled Environment Agriculture			LH Standard does not address controlled environment agriculture
22. Metrics		LH Standard does not specify metrics to meet its Objectives and Indicators, but Global G.A.P. metrics are supportive conformance evidence to the Standard.	

The Leading Harvest Standard has 13 Principles, four of which are not addressed in the GlobalG.A.P. IFA requirements: 1. Sustainable Agriculture, 8. Protection of Special Sites, 9. Local Communities, and 13. Tenant-operated Operations.

Principle 1. Sustainable Agriculture	To practice sustainable agriculture to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means practicing a farmland stewardship ethic that integrates profitable agricultural production with efficient use of inputs; the conservation of natural resources, including farmland; attention to climate change and land rights; and consideration for tenants, employees, contract workers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
Principle 8. Protection of Special Sites	To manage farmland that is geologically or culturally important in a manner that considers its unique qualities.
Principle 9. Local Communities	To contribute to the economy and well-being of rural communities through jobs, local purchases, other contributions, efforts to maintain community health and safety, and by respecting land and resource rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples
Principle 13. Tenant—Operated Operations	To promote the application of regional agricultural best management practices on tenant-operated farmland.

