

# Agricultural Land Use Potential on Bowen Island: Summary Analysis

## Does Bowen Island have sufficient agricultural lands?

Total ALR area (acres)

# 425

The total area of Bowen Island is 12,998 acres. Less than three percent (or about 425 acres) of these lands are located in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Currently farmed ALR (acres)

# 37.8

Currently, less than 10% of ALR land on Bowen Island is actively farmed. The prominent agricultural land use is for pasture. Other types of agricultural activities include vegetable production, nursery and tree plantation and berry production.

ALR not currently farmed but available for farming (acres)

# 51.4

More than 80% of ALR lands are currently in natural or semi-natural areas. The majority of these lands are parklands and are not available for future farming activities. There are about 51.4 acres of natural and semi-natural areas in the ALR that are available for farming. However, to do so requires significant clearing and preparing the lands.

## How much land will it take to produce 11 staple crops for all Bowen Island population?

### Select staple crops:

Beet	Cucumber	Potato
Broccoli	Kale	Squash
Cabbage	Onion	Tomato
Carrot	Pea	

To estimate the area required to produce 11 staple crops to feed everyone on Bowen, we rely on data from the Census of Agriculture, Census of Population, and the Food Available in Canada database.

Given current crop yields and Canadian consumption pattern, 28.4 acres are required to produce staple crops for 4,256 people currently living on Bowen Island.

Estimated growing areas needed (acres)

# 28.4

This calculation is a theoretical exercise to demonstrate the potential of currently utilized ALR land. In reality, there are several factors to be taken into account such as market demands, labour, and landowner's preference in land use options.