**Environmental Horticulture** is a major sector of agriculture in Connecticut. There are **more than 3,020** firms in this industry.

These firms are involved in:
- **production**: nurseries, greenhouses, herbs, cut flowers, turfgrass.
- **retail**: garden centers, florists.
- **landscape services**: landscape design, installation, maintenance, lawn care, tree care.

Many firms are involved in more than one of these types of business.

The **Environmental Horticulture industry produces income**. The estimated value in Connecticut for 2004 is **$1.1 billion** gross income.

- Overall industry income has grown since the last survey in 2001.
- Over a three year period, between 2001 and 2004, more than **1,990 firms increased their income**. The average increase per firm was 26 percent.
- Many additional firms, not counted in this survey, derive at least partial income from this industry. These include seasonal outlets such as roadside markets, hardware stores, mass market stores and property maintenance firms.

**Environmental Horticulture** provides **MANY jobs**. At least **48,000** people are employed in this industry. An additional **7,600** are needed.

- An estimated **22,000 jobs are full time**.
- This industry paid an estimated **$632 million to employees** in 2004.
- More than half the businesses reported an increase in the cost of labor. The average increase per firm was 26 percent.
Environmental Horticulture is diverse.

Almost two-thirds of firms provide, and derive income from, landscape and tree services.

Plant production and sales are a significant part of the Environmental Horticulture industry. Plant sales generate an estimated $656 million.

This includes:
- $243 million from plants produced totally by the seller.
- $131 million from young plants grown further (“pre-finished”) prior to selling.
- $282 million from “finished” plants bought for resale, either wholesale or retail.

Plant production generates $374 million. A majority of firms (79 percent) sold plants.

More Facts on Environmental Horticulture in Connecticut

- This industry is keeping more than 42,000 acres in agriculture, of which 56 percent is open space and 30 percent is in a land preservation program.
- Over two-thirds of income (67 percent) comes from in-state sales and services.
- Businesses in this industry paid almost $154 million in taxes in 2004. Taxes increased for nearly half the firms. The average increase per firm was 25 percent.