Environmental Horticulture is a major sector of agriculture in Maine. There are more than 810 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 Maine for 2004 is $315 million gross income.

- Overall industry income has grown since the last survey in 2001.
- Over a three year period, between 2001 and 2004, more than 500 firms increased their income. The average increase per firm was 23 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 10,800 people are employed in this industry. An additional 1,600 are needed.

- An estimated 5,000 jobs are full time.
- This industry paid an estimated $127 million to employees in 2004.
- More than half the businesses reported an increase in the cost of labor. The average increase per firm was 20 percent.
Environmental Horticulture is diverse.

Types of Business:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape &amp; Tree Services</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Production/Sales</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over half 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 $114 million.

This includes:

- $26 million from plants produced totally by the seller.
- $50 million from young plants grown further ("pre-finished") prior to selling.
- $38 million from "finished" plants bought for resale, either wholesale or retail.

Plant production generates $76 million. A majority of firms (85 percent) sold plants.

More Facts on Environmental Horticulture in Maine

- This industry is keeping more than 14,000 acres in agriculture, of which 44 percent is open space and 17 percent is in a land preservation program.
- The majority of income (74 percent) comes from in-state sales and services.
- Businesses in this industry paid almost $22 million in taxes in 2004. Taxes increased for nearly half the firms. The average increase per firm was 23 percent.