Environmental Horticulture is a major sector of agriculture in Rhode Island. There are more than 690 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 Rhode Island for 2004 is $310 million gross income.

- A majority of firms increased their income since the last survey in 2001.
- Over a three year period, between 2001 and 2004, more than 430 firms increased their income. The average increase per firm was 25 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 10,000 people are employed in this industry. An additional 3,800 are needed.

- An estimated 5,700 jobs are full time.
- This industry paid an estimated $150 million to employees in 2004.
- More than half the businesses reported an increase in the cost of labor. The average increase per firm was 25 percent.
Environmental Horticulture is diverse.

**TYPES OF BUSINESS**

- Landscape & Tree Services: 59%
- Retail: 41%
- Wholesale Production/Sales: 38%
- Other: 7%

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 $237 million.

This includes:

- $118 million from plants produced totally by the seller.
- $43 million from young plants grown further ("pre-finished") prior to selling.
- $76 million from "finished" plants bought for resale, either wholesale or retail.

Plant production generates $161 million. A majority of firms (79 percent) sold plants.

More Facts on Environmental Horticulture in Rhode Island

- This industry is keeping more than 27,000 acres in agriculture, of which 80 percent is open space and 48 percent is in a land preservation program.
- Over half the income (54 percent) comes from in-state sales and services.
- Businesses in this industry paid almost $23 million in taxes in 2004. Taxes increased for nearly half the firms. The average increase per firm was 21 percent.