Environmental Horticulture... a Major Sector of Agriculture

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Horticulture is the fastest growing sector of American agriculture today—and New England’s overall contribution to this growth is significant. The value added to our local economies through New England’s wholesale nursery and greenhouse growers, retail garden centers, landscape and tree care services in 1998 surpassed $3.7 billion. Additionally, the Environmental Horticulture industry substantially impacts the region through our active stewardship of the environment. We grow, sell, install, maintain and preserve the living landscape.

This inaugural study surveyed New England’s Environmental Horticulture industry—an industry comprised of more than 12,000 businesses. The results clearly quantify the many positive ways this industry affects the local economy including our volume of business, cost of doing business, employment opportunities, tax contributions, and future growth potential.

Our industry is made up of multi-generation, family businesses whose hard work in challenging conditions has put New England on the map as producers of the country’s hardiest plant material. This success coupled with cutting-edge garden centers, innovative landscape contractors and designers, progressive tree care professionals, and other visionary members of the regional “green” industry, promises a bright future for Environmental Horticulture in New England.

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