

## **Canadian ornamentals and horticulture grow your plants, flower and gardens**



Did you know that when you look out at your window from your house or office located in the city, almost all the green you can see comes from the ornamental plant people? Urban green spaces can include natural areas, street trees, parks, green corridors, gardens, urban forests, golf courses, and colourful boulevards, all providing many benefits through its ecosystem services to the urban populations.

Many Canadians today are stressed by the pandemic, the economy, and climate change and wonder how each of these will affect their own quality of life and prosperity and that of their families, friends, and communities.

The Canadian ornamental horticulture sector's products make an important positive difference to our lives in these times by enhancing and improving our indoor and outdoor living spaces. Plants add beauty, fragrance and practical benefits indoors, and add value to property and deliver shade, windbreaks, air and water filtration, and carbon capture outdoors. Also, studies show that plants and flowers have a long-term positive effect on moods and are a natural and healthy way to improve emotional health by lowering levels of stress and anxiety.

People who kept flowers in their homes felt more relaxed, happier, and expressed more satisfaction with life.

Production takes place in all provinces, growing trees of all sizes, shrubs, roses, potted plants and cut flowers, turf sod, and Christmas trees – producing over 7000 different varieties of plants.



Home gardening itself allows people of all ages to exercise and socialize, contributing to a healthy lifestyle. Did you know that

- up to 83% of Canadian households plan to garden in 2021
- 95% of Canadians agree that gardening and gardens improve the quality of life of Canadians, as well as their physical and mental health.
- 92 % of Canadians agree that gardening and gardens have a positive impact on climate change.

2022 promises to be a year of getting back to what we missed in the recent past. Our contribution will mark 2022 as the **Year of the Garden** in Canada. It will be the first time any country has celebrated ornamental gardens. Canada's year long

celebration will focus on the contribution that gardens and gardening have made to the development of Canada and its cities, and to the lives of Canadians in terms of health, quality of life, inclusiveness and environmental challenges. For more information, see [www.yearofthegarden.ca](http://www.yearofthegarden.ca) or [www.anneedujardin.ca](http://www.anneedujardin.ca) .

The ornamental horticulture value chain includes plant propagators, producers, retailers, and related design, installation and maintenance professionals. The sector contributes an estimated \$14.4 billion to Canada's economy per year. As well, over 26,000 Canadians were directly employed in the production of ornamental horticulture products and another 110,000 were employed full time through the value chain. Our work force runs the gamut.... from the highly skilled research scientists, to other professions such as managers and accountants, to computer technicians, and to laborers in the greenhouses and fields. We're always looking to hire!

Our outdoor perennial products make a big difference to the local and national environment: they slow and cool winds, capture carbon from the air, and help mitigate the impact of extreme weather events. They help lessen the impact of flooding and soil erosion by absorbing water and stabilizing the banks of waterways. Some of our products can also assist in water management because they filter nutrients from water running off roads or fields.

Many are surprised to discover the sector's contribution to food security. For example, an increasing volume of spring sales include a wide range of vegetable plants and other edibles such as herbs, which grow in millions of yards and community gardens. The sector produces fruit trees and berry plants for commercial and home production delivering an abundance of ultra-local fresh produce through the growing season.

Finally, many homeowners and businesses are contributing to local ecosystems by establishing pollinator gardens that provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies and other pollinator species. In fact, 30 Canadian cities now identify themselves as pollinator cities! By planting a diverse pollinator garden filled with purple, yellow and blue flowers with single blooms, you can help important pollinator species. Since pollinators are small, even an apartment balcony can provide habitat for them! To learn more, and to download a free pollinator poster, visit: <https://www.flowerscanadagrowers.com/pollinator-poster>

For more information on the Canadian ornamental horticulture sector, contact the Canadian Ornamental Horticulture Alliance at [coha-acho.ca](http://coha-acho.ca). For information on the Canadian flower sector, contact Flowers Canada Growers at [flowerscanadagrowers.com](http://flowerscanadagrowers.com). For information on the Canadian nursery sector, contact the Canadian Nursery and Landscaping Association at [cnla.ca](http://cnla.ca). Quebec Vert represents both the flowers, nursery and landscaping sector in Quebec and can be contacted at [quebecvert.com](http://quebecvert.com).