



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties – Kentucky**



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Horticultural Specialties Highlights

The 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties provides detailed production and sales data for floriculture, nursery, and other specialty products. This special study is part of the larger census of agriculture program. All operations that reported producing and selling \$10,000 or more of horticultural specialty products were included in the 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties.

In 2014, the United States had 23,221 horticultural operations that produced and sold \$13.8 billion in floriculture, nursery, and other horticultural specialty products. Kentucky had 473 horticultural operations that sold \$83.1 million in horticultural products in 2014, compared to 404 horticultural operations that sold \$75.3 million in horticultural products in 2009. Horticulture producers in Kentucky had \$62.4 million in total production expenses in 2014. Hired labor expenses in Kentucky accounted for 24 percent of the total production expenses. Of the 2,129 hired workers in Kentucky, 1,327 worked less than 150 days compared to 802 who worked 150 days or more.

Top Horticultural Specialty Crops Sold: 2014

Items	All sales		Wholesale sales		Retail sales	
	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)
All horticultural specialty crops						
United States	23,221	13,789,048	14,885	11,859,976	14,710	1,929,073
Kentucky	473	83,097	258	60,374	367	22,723
Annual bedding/garden plants						
United States	7,964	2,567,534	3,367	2,044,090	6,197	523,444
Kentucky	223	37,629	101	30,734	187	6,895
Potted herbaceous perennial plants						
United States	6,291	944,850	2,710	794,915	4,805	149,936
Kentucky	143	7,817	66	5,751	121	2,065
Potted flowering plants for indoor or patio use						
United States	4,059	1,084,274	2,010	993,437	2,891	90,837
Kentucky	75	3,474	40	2,778	56	697
Foliage plants for indoor or patio use						
United States	2,644	721,889	1,386	702,029	1,591	19,860
Kentucky	67	3,134	25	(D)	56	(D)
Cut flowers and cut lei flowers						
United States	1,998	462,098	974	417,108	1,350	44,990
Kentucky	15	159	2	(D)	15	(D)
Nursery stock						
United States	8,226	4,266,631	(NA)	3,834,953	(NA)	431,678
Kentucky	137	16,955	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Propagative horticultural materials, bareroot and unfinished plants						
United States	1,067	695,126	832	670,651	303	24,475
Kentucky	15	(D)	12	(D)	3	422
Sod, sprigs, or plugs						
United States	1,289	1,138,465	(NA)	858,280	(NA)	280,185
Kentucky	37	5,643	(NA)	2,774	(NA)	2,869
Food crops grown under protection						
United States	2,521	796,664	(NA)	606,025	(NA)	190,639
Kentucky	70	1,280	(NA)	764	(NA)	516
Transplants for commercial vegetable and strawberry production						
United States	693	371,817	(NA)	339,123	(NA)	32,694
Kentucky	23	158	(NA)	132	(NA)	26

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.

Top Horticultural Production Expenses and Number of Hired Workers: 2014

Item	United States	Kentucky
HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION EXPENSES		
All horticultural production expenses	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	23,221 10,997,042	473 62,367
Seeds, plants, vines, trees, etc. purchased	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	20,114 1,789,013	466 18,131
Containers purchased	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	14,692 573,656	385 5,917
Hired labor expenses, all	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	17,086 4,086,606	308 15,089
Gasoline, fuels, and oils purchased	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	22,207 562,895	464 4,095
All other production expenses ¹	operations \$1,000	operations \$1,000
	11,517 542,804	192 2,545
GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, AND OTHER HORTICULTURAL LABOR		
Hired workers	operations workers	operations workers
	17,086 274,759	308 2,129

¹ Includes customwork, storage and warehousing, insurance premiums, etc. Excludes potting soils and growing media, fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioner, chemicals, contract labor, utilities, repairs, supplies, and maintenance costs, rent and lease expenses, interest paid on all debt, property taxes paid in 2014, marketing expenses, and packaging expenses.

Value of Horticultural Specialty Crops Sold by Marketing Channels: 2014

Item	United States	Kentucky
Consumers (direct sales)	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	15,406 2,119,414	358 19,433
Retail florists	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	2,907 200,932	45 1,572
Retail garden centers/nurseries, excluding mass marketers	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	7,605 2,360,602	123 7,674
Supermarkets/grocers	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	3,025 1,047,659	31 3,863
Other mass marketers	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	2,668 2,884,785	24 32,748
Interiorscapers	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	1,523 65,702	8 88
Landscape contractors	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	8,096 1,948,110	130 10,125
Wholesale florists	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	2,631 538,711	15 345
Landscape redistribution yards	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	3,029 673,231	21 2,381
Non-profit groups (fund raisers)	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	3,255 92,316	54 715
Other marketing channels	operations value (\$1,000)	operations value (\$1,000)
	4,518 1,857,424	76 4,154

Land Area Used for Horticultural Production: 2014

Geographic area	Greenhouses		Shade structure area		Natural shade area		Area in the open	
	Operations	Area (1,000 sq ft)	Operations	Area (1,000 sq ft)	Operations	Acres	Operations	Acres
United States	14,593	894,907	4,058	429,708	1,804	5,404	12,927	497,339
Kentucky	382	8,948	48	1,041	30	63	226	3,706

Horticultural Specialty Operations and Sales by Legal Status for Tax Purposes: 2014

Geographic area	Total		Family or individual		Partnership		Corporation		Other - cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	
	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)	Operations	Value (\$1,000)
United States	23,221	13,789,048	12,193	1,968,588	1,873	1,140,653	8,736	10,541,841	419	137,966
Kentucky	473	83,097	271	18,853	32	(D)	162	31,277	8	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.