



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture Operations

**Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations account for 2.5 percent of all U.S. farms but employ 4.9 percent of hired farm workers, and pay 13.3 percent of farm labor expenses.**

U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service



The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 2,204,792 farms in the United States. Farms classified as primarily horticultural operations\* totaled 54,889, a decrease of nearly 15 percent from 2002.

The number of operations with sales from horticultural crops was 50,784, down 9 percent from the previous Census. Overall, the value of sales from the horticultural industry comprised 5.6 percent of the total value of agricultural products sold in the United States in 2007.

Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod sales increased 13 percent from 2002 and 2007, from \$14.7 billion to \$16.6 billion. Nursery stock and bedding/garden plants made up 62 percent of those sales. Other top commodity groups included sod, potted flowering plants and mushrooms.

	2007 Value of Sales	% of Industry Total
<b>Total Sales</b>	\$16.6 billion	100
<b>Nursery Stock</b>	\$6.6 billion	39.5
<b>Bedding/Garden Plants</b>	\$3.8 billion	22.6
<b>Sod Harvested</b>	\$1.3 billion	8.1
<b>Potted Flowering Plants</b>	\$1.2 billion	7.5
<b>Mushrooms</b>	\$986 million	5.9
<b>All Other</b>	\$2.7 billion	16.4

\* The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) categorizes farms by the commodities which constitute a majority of the sales of the operation.

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## How Do They Compare?

Compared to U.S. agricultural operations overall, nursery operations, on average, have fewer acres but higher sales. They receive fewer government payments on average, and are more likely to have Internet access.

Operators of nursery operations are on average younger than the typical farm operator, more likely to be of a female, or a minority race or of Hispanic origin.

	All U.S. Farms	Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture Operations
<b>Average Size of Operation</b>	418 acres	72 acres
<b>Average Value of Sales</b>	\$134,807	\$309,117
<b>Average Government Payments Received</b>	\$9,523	\$6,615
<b>Average Net Cash Farm Income</b>	\$33,827	\$85,251
<b>Sales &amp; Government Payments &lt;\$10,000</b>	58%	42%
<b>Operations with Internet Access</b>	57%	68%

	All U.S. Farm Operators	Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture Producers
<b>Average Age</b>	57.1	56.0
<b>Age 65 and Older</b>	30%	24%
<b>Not White, Not Hispanic</b>	7%	9%
<b>Female</b>	14%	19%
<b>Who Work Off the Farm</b>	65%	67%
<b>On Farm Less than 5 Years</b>	10%	10%

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### What Is Produced?

The 2007 Census shows a decline in the area planted to horticultural crops. The area of crops in the open decreased in all categories except flower seeds and sod harvested. Additionally, the area of crops under glass or other protection dropped in all categories except nursery stock.

	2007	2002	% Change
<b>Crops in the Open (Acres)</b>			
Nursery Stock	446,496	463,631	-3.6
Sod Harvested	409,440	386,504	+5.9
Vegetable Seeds	45,309	56,939	-20.4
Cut Flowers and Cut Florist Greens	25,698	33,079	-22.3
Bedding/Garden Plants	18,647	21,484	-13.1
Flower Seeds	9,709	8,256	+17.6
<b>Crops Under Glass or Other Protection (Square Feet)</b>			
Bedding/Garden Plants	361,050,691	386,963,439	-6.7
Nursery Stock	221,813,698	187,765,579	+18.1
Cut Flowers and Cut Florist Greens	174,339,910	230,313,795	-24.3
Potted Flowering Plants	142,637,616	173,130,034	-17.6
Foliage Plants, Indoor	139,863,389	183,251,147	-23.7
Greenhouse Vegetables	61,765,935	64,364,430	-4.0
Mushrooms	45,308,740	48,339,412	-6.3



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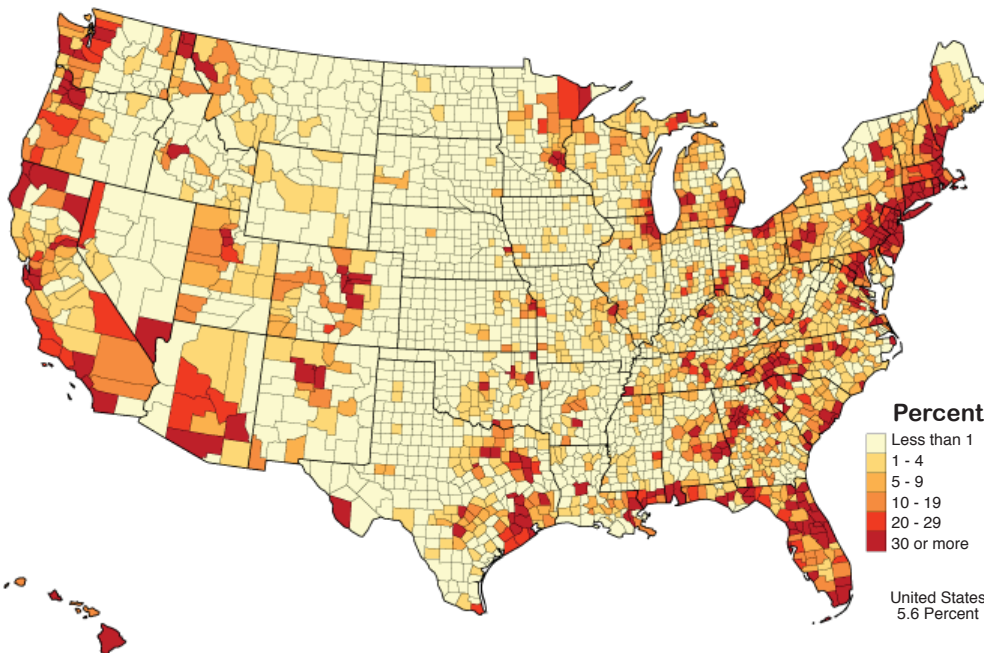
## Where Are They?

Horticultural operations tend to be concentrated in coastal areas. The top five states in terms of the value of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production are California, Florida, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. California and Florida, accounted for more than one third of the total value of production in the United States.

The top five counties are San Diego County, California; Miami-Dade County, Florida; Chester County, Pennsylvania; and Ventura and Orange Counties, California.



Value of Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture and Sod Sales as Percent of Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2007



For more information:

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

Agricultural Statistics Hotline  
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