



## HORTICULTURE

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Horticulture is that the branch of agriculture that deals with the art, science, technology, and business of growing plants. It includes the cultivation of healthful plants, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, herbs, sprouts, mushrooms, algae, flowers, seaweeds and non-food crops like grass and decorative trees and plants. agriculture is that the science and art of manufacturing, improving, marketing, and victimisation fruits, vegetables, flowers, and decorative plants. It differs from phytology and alternative plant sciences therein agriculture incorporates each science and aesthetics.

Horticulture, the branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops, generally fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. The word is derived from the Latin hortus, "garden," and colere, "to cultivate." As a general term, it covers all forms of garden management, but in ordinary use it refers to intensive commercial production. In terms of scale, horticulture falls between domestic gardening and field agriculture, though all forms of cultivation naturally have close links.

- i. Horticulture crops generally require intensive cultivation.
- ii. Horticulture produces are highly perishable.
- iii. Horticulture crops are the rich sources of vitamins and minerals.
- iv. Cultural operations such as propagation, training, pruning, harvesting and marketing are skilled operations and are specific to horticulture crops.

Horticulture is divided into the cultivation of plants for food (pomology and olericulture) and plants for ornament (floriculture and landscape horticulture). Pomology deals with fruit and nut crops. Olericulture deals with herbaceous plants for the kitchen, including, for example, carrots (edible root), asparagus (edible stem), lettuce (edible leaf), cauliflower (edible flower buds), tomatoes (edible fruit), and peas (edible seed). Floriculture deals with the production of flowers and ornamental plants; generally, cut flowers, pot plants, and greenery. Landscape horticulture is a broad category that includes plants for the landscape, including lawn turf but particularly nursery crops such as shrubs, trees, and vines.

## TYPES OF HORTICULTURE

There are several major areas of focus within the science of horticulture.[1] They include:

- **Olericulture:** the production of vegetables.
- **Pomology**, also called fruticulture: the production of fruits and nuts.
- **Viticulture:** the production of grapes (largely intended for winemaking).
- **Floriculture:** the production of flowering and ornamental plants.
- **Turf management:** the production and maintenance of turf grass for sports, leisure and amenity use.
- **Arboriculture:** the cultivation and care of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other perennial woody plants, primarily for landscape and amenity purposes.
- **Landscape horticulture:** the selection, production and care of plants used in landscape architecture.
- **Postharvest physiology:** the management of harvested horticultural crops to retard spoilage while stored or transported.

The specialization of the horticulturist and the success of the crop are influenced by many factors. Among these are climate, terrain, and other regional variations can be mainly considered.

## HORTICULTURAL REGIONS

### TEMPERATE ZONES

Temperate zones for horticulture cannot be defined exactly by lines of latitude or longitude but are usually regarded as including those areas where frost in winter occurs, even though rarely. Thus, most parts of Europe, North America, and northern Asia are included, though some parts of the United States, such as southern Florida, are considered subtropical. A few parts of the north coast of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean islands are also subtropical. In the Southern Hemisphere, practically all of New Zealand, a few parts of Australia, and the southern part of South America have temperate climates. For horticultural purposes altitude is also a factor; the lower slopes of great mountain ranges, such as the Himalayas and the Andes, are included. Thus, the temperate zones are very wide and the range of plants that can be grown in them is enormous, probably greater than in either the subtropical or tropical zones. In the temperate zones are the great coniferous and deciduous forests: pine, spruce, fir, most of the cypresses, the deciduous oaks (but excluding many of the evergreen ones), ash, birch, and linden.

### TROPICAL ZONES

There is no sharp line of demarcation between the tropics and the subtropics. Just as many tropical plants can be cultivated in the subtropics, so also many subtropical and even temperate plants can be grown satisfactorily in the tropics. Elevation is a determining factor. For example, the scarlet runner bean, a common plant in temperate regions, grows, flowers, and develops pods normally on the high slopes of Mount Meru in Africa near the Equator, but it will not set pods in Hong Kong, a subtropical situation a little south of the Tropic of Cancer but at a low elevation.

## HISTORY

The history of horticulture overlaps with the history of agriculture and history of botany.

The origins of horticulture lie in the transition of human communities from a nomadic lifestyle as hunter-gatherers to sedentary, or semi-sedentary, horticultural communities. In the Pre-Columbian Amazon Rainforest, natives used biochar to enhance soil productivity by smoldering plant waste. European settlers called this soil Terra Preta de Indio. In forest areas, such horticulture was often carried out in swiddens, or "slash and burn" areas.

In pre-contact North America, the semi-sedentary horticultural communities of the Eastern Woodlands, who grew maize, squash, and sunflower, contrasted markedly with the nomadic hunter-gatherer communities of the Plains people. Mesoamerican cultures focused in the cultivating of crops on a small scale, such as the "milpa" or maize field, around their dwellings or in specialized plots which were visited occasionally during migrations from one area to the next. In Central America, Maya horticulture involved augmentation of the forest with useful trees such as papaya, avocado, cacao, ceiba and sapodilla. In the cornfields, multiple crops such as beans, squash, pumpkins and chili peppers were grown, and in some cultures, these crops were tended mainly or exclusively by women.

In India, the warm and sunny climate allows the cultivation of a wide range of green vegetables and fruits. Flowers, beans, onions, to-matoes, carrots, radish, pumpkins, gourd, cabbage, cauliflower and all the leafy vegetables of the warm temperate latitudes are grown in India. The seeds of different vegetables are sown in different periods of the year which helps in maintaining a constant supply of vegetables to the urban centres.

Although vegetables in India are grown in or around almost every village, town and city, their cultivation is more important in the outskirts of large urban centres, like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Patna, Shillong and Gauhati, mainly because of heavy demands. In Srinagar (Kash-mir) vegetable cultivation is carried on in the Dal lake, mainly during the spring and summer seasons to meet the fresh vegetable demand of Srinagar and its environs.

A large variety of fruits like mangoes, apples, oranges, grapes, bananas, guavas, peaches, berries, apricots, plums, cheeku and diverse dry fruits are grown under the varying agro-climatic conditions of India. Mangoes and several other fruits and their products are now being exported to the distant markets of Europe, America, Middle East and the Far East which fetch handsome foreign exchange to the country.