1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties

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1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties
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U.S. Department of Commerce
Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary
Joseph R. Wright, Jr., Deputy Secretary
Robert G. Dederick, Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Bruce Chapman,
Director
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This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general direction of Orvin L. Wilhite, Chief (to January 1980), and Arnold L. Bollenbacher, his successor. Kenneth R. Norell, Assistant Division Chief for Special Surveys, supervised report preparation, table design, and publication of the census.

Edward J. James (to January 1981) was responsible for the initial planning, preparation of computer specifications, and clerical procedures. John C. Womack, Chief for Oualitying Areas Statistics Branch, and Demosthenes Birbilis directed the various processing operations and the compilation of this report. Lisa Ciolek and Jackie M. Stoner with the assistance of Esther C. Darnell made significant contributions in processing report forms, and in preparing publication tables, texts, and computer layouts. William A. Harlan directed the resolution of problems with individual census reports.

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CONTENTS

Introduction ........................................................... V
Highlights of the Nation's Horticultural Specialties: 1979 and 1970. ................. VII
Map—Regions and Divisions of the United States ........................................ VIII

TABLES

U.S. DATA

1. Establishments and Sales of Commodity Groups by Value of Sales ................... 1
2. Establishments and Sales by Kind of Business and Value of Sales ......... 2
3. Labor by Kind of Business .............................................. 2
4. Establishments and Sales by Kind of Business and Type of Ownership. .......... 3
5. Selected Production Expenses by Kind of Business .................................. 3
6. Selected Production Expenses by Value of Sales ...................................... 4
7. Structures, Land Area Use, and Irrigation by Kind of Business ............... 5
8. Structures, Land Area Use, and Irrigation by Value of Sales ...................... 6
9. Potted Flowering Plants ................................................. 7
10. Cut Flowers ............................................................ 7
11. Unfinished Stock. .................................................... 8
12. Cut Cultivated Greens ..................................................................... 8
13. Bedding Plants ........................................................................ 8
14. Foliage Plants ........................................................................ 8
15. Nursery Products. .................................................................... 9
16. Vegetable Seeds; Vegetables; Flower Seeds; Sod; Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes; and Cultivated Mushrooms ............................................................ 10

STATE DATA

17. Sales ........................................................................... 11
18. Establishments and Sales by Value of Sales and Kind of Business .......... 12
19. Establishments, Sales, and Value of Land and Buildings and Machinery and Equipment, by Type of Ownership .............................................. 28
20. Selected Production Expenses ................................................... 29
21. Energy Expenses ................................................................... 30
22. Hired Labor ........................................................................ 32
23. Land, Structures, and Equipment: 1979 ............................................. 33
24. Land Area Irrigated .................................................................. 36
25. Potted Flowering Plants .......................................................... 37
26. Cut Flowers ........................................................................ 52
27. Unfinished Stock. ............................................................... 73
28. Cut Cultivated Greens ................................................................ 80
29. Bedding Plants ....................................................................... 85
30. Foliage Plants ....................................................................... 100
31. Sod ............................................................................... 107
32. Bulbs, Corms, or Rhizomes .......................................................... 108
33. Cultivated Mushrooms ............................................................. 109
34. Nursery Products. ................................................................ 110
35. Nursery Products—Lining-out Stock ............................................. 111
36. Nursery Products—Environmental Plants, Fruit and Nut Trees, Grapevines, and Small Fruit Plants ............................................................ 119
37. Vegetable Seeds .................................................................... 141
## TABLES—Con.

### STATE DATA—Con.
- **38.** Vegetables Grown Under Protection ........................................ 142
- **39.** Flower Seeds ........................................................................ 145
- **40.** Hawaii—Selected Items ......................................................... 147

### COUNTY DATA
- **41.** Sales and Labor of Horticultural Specialties ................................. 148
- **42.** Potted Flowering Plants ............................................................ 159
- **43.** Cut Flowers ............................................................................ 161
- **44.** Unfinished Stock ...................................................................... 162
- **45.** Cut Cultivated Greens ............................................................... 162
- **46.** Bedding Plants ......................................................................... 163
- **47.** Foliage Plants ........................................................................... 165
- **48.** Sod .......................................................................................... 166
- **49.** Bulbs, Corms, or Rhizomes ...................................................... 167
- **50.** Cultivated Mushrooms ............................................................... 167
- **51.** Total Nursery Products .............................................................. 168
- **52.** Nursery Products—Lining-out Stock ........................................... 170
- **53.** Nursery Products—Environmental Plants, Fruit and Nut Trees, Grapevines, and Small Fruit Plants ................................................................. 170
- **54.** Vegetables Grown Under Glass or Other Protection ..................... 172
- **55.** Vegetable Seeds ....................................................................... 172
- **56.** Flower Seeds ............................................................................ 172

## APPENDIXES
- **A.** General Explanation ................................................................. A-1
- **B.** Report Form ............................................................................. B-1

### Index .................................................................................................. Index-1
INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

This is the sixth census of horticultural specialty production. These censuses have been taken in conjunction with the agriculture censuses of 1890, 1930, 1950, 1959, 1969, and 1978. The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties, as in previous censuses, includes producers of cut flowers, flowering and foliage plants, bedding plants, cultivated florist greens, nursery products, bulbs, flower seeds, vegetables grown under glass or other protection, cultivated mushrooms, vegetable seeds, and sod. Data for these specialty items were collected for each State. Establishments producing horticultural specialties also have been included in the regular census of agriculture; however, the number and detail of questions included in that census were severely limited.

AUTHORITY

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties was taken in accordance with the provisions of title 13, United States Code. Section 142 provides for the census of agriculture and section 193 provides for the collection of supplementary statistics related to the main topic.

HORTICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINITION

This census defines a horticultural establishment as an operation growing and selling $2,000 or more of horticultural products in the census year. This definition also has been used in the special censuses of 1959 and 1969. The previous definition used in 1950 included operations producing and selling at least $1,000 of horticultural products. The 1930 census included all operations with any sales.

PERIOD COVERED

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties covers operations of the calendar year 1979 except for the small portion of establishments that maintain their records on a fiscal year basis.

These establishments were permitted to report their fiscal year that included at least half of the 1979 calendar year. Data on employment, land, structures, and equipment were to be reported for the period specified on the report form.

METHOD OF ENUMERATION

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties was conducted primarily by mail for maximum economy, supplemented by telephone interviews. It was taken in conjunction with the annual Floriculture Survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in California by the State government to minimize respondent's burden. Appendix A provides a more detailed description of how the census was taken.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Detailed data on horticultural specialty production have been obtained in five previous censuses in conjunction with the censuses of agriculture. Only limited comparative data are given in this volume, but historical data may be obtained for the census year in question by referring to one of the following census reports:

1890—Eleventh Census of the United States 1890.
1930—Fifteenth Census of the United States 1930; Horticulture for the United States and for States, 1929 and 1930.
1950—1950 Census of Agriculture; Volume V, Special Reports; Part 1, Horticultural Specialties.
1959—1959 Census of Agriculture; Volume V, Special Reports; Part 1, Horticultural Specialties.

Differences in the amount of data collected, in methodology, and format will affect comparability of data. In a 10-year period, emphasis usually changes as it did in this census period. Pot and basket sizes are included for the first time for flowering and foliage plants. Also, the 1979 census included land and structures information concerning the value of machinery and equipment. Other new items are detail data on energy and costs of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals.

The data from the 1978 Census of Agriculture are not directly comparable. The 1978 data include all establishments that grew and sold any horticultural products. However, this census covers those operations with at least $2,000 in gross sales of horticultural specialty products. Some difference in the reporting of county location of the horticultural operation will appear between 1978 data and 1979 data. In all tables, the sum
of the parts will not necessarily equal the total, whenever rounded data are used. Also, this is the case between tables.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

U.S. data—Tables 1 through 16 show detailed data of the United States. Tables 1 through 8 show data by various kinds of business and value of sales, and tables 9 through 16 show each specialty item.

State data—Tables 17 through 24 show selected data items on a State level, such as sales, production expenses, land, and machinery and equipment. Detailed data are shown in tables 25 through 39 and table 40 includes selected items for Hawaii.

County data—Tables 41 through 56 are presented on a county level. Table 41 shows total sales and labor, and tables 42 through 56 show statistics on each specialty commodity group.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, data that would disclose the operations of an individual horticultural establishment are not published. However, the number of establishments in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure. Appendix A presents additional information on disclosure rules.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

“SEE TEXT” REFERENCE

Items in the tables which are followed by the reference “See text” are explained or defined in appendix A.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used, where applicable, throughout the tables:

- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual establishments.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
Highlights of the Nation’s Horticultural Specialties: 1979 and 1970
(Significant changes were made to data collection procedures to improve coverage of 1979 census, including a more complete mail list and improvements in methods of tabulation. Thus, 1970 data are not directly comparable to 1979 data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Business</th>
<th>Total Farms</th>
<th>Farms with sales of $10,000 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>22,347</td>
<td>12,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of horticultural products sold:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sales $1,000</td>
<td>3,212,002</td>
<td>960,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale sales $1,000</td>
<td>2,776,184</td>
<td>781,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired labor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees on payroll number</td>
<td>223,892</td>
<td>97,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time employees number</td>
<td>95,066</td>
<td>52,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time employees number</td>
<td>128,826</td>
<td>45,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family members number</td>
<td>10,239</td>
<td>10,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages paid out $1,000</td>
<td>934,783</td>
<td>316,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time wages $1,000</td>
<td>768,386</td>
<td>(NA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of ownership:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual proprietor number</td>
<td>14,880</td>
<td>8,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership number</td>
<td>2,684</td>
<td>2,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation number</td>
<td>4,783</td>
<td>2,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of Business</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedding plants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>3,947</td>
<td>(NA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>254,241</td>
<td>61,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potted flowering plants and/or cut flowers:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>6,486</td>
<td>7,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>857,021</td>
<td>401,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foliage plants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>2,347</td>
<td>2,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>410,000</td>
<td>38,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery crops:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>6,297</td>
<td>3,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>956,001</td>
<td>283,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sod:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>206,895</td>
<td>43,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse vegetables:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>2,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>25,202</td>
<td>18,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbs:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>19,371</td>
<td>10,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>40,868</td>
<td>8,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivated mushrooms:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>348,341</td>
<td>95,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (see text):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments number</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>(NA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales $1,000</td>
<td>84,058</td>
<td>(NA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Dollar figures shown have not been adjusted for changes in price levels between census years.