

# What is horticulture in agriculture

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Horticulture is the field of study which concentrates on gardening, and the plants and biological systems which make up a garden. Horticulture is a broad science which has many sub-disciplines. Horticulture studies both the science behind the garden and the aesthetics which make it appealing to look at. For instance, floriculture focuses on the production of flowers, while viticulture studies purely grapes. Horticulturalist can find themselves in a variety of positions, from maintaining community gardens to curating plants in a museum. Horticulture also overlaps with several other sciences, discussed below.

Horticulture is derived from Greek, and literally means "garden cultivation". Agriculture has similar Greek roots, but means "field cultivation". As can be seen by their roots, the words differ in mostly scale. However, history has shaped them to be even further apart. While horticulture is concerned with many species and how they can occupy a tight space, agriculture focuses on producing large amounts of a single species. Agriculture is also concerned with the production of animals for food and other products, which horticulture is not.

Horticulture is broken into various subfields, which specialize in certain types of plants. A degree in one of these fields can be obtained from the associate's level through doctorate levels. The lower degrees are required for handling and maintaining plants and gardens, while a doctoral candidate might do research on the plants or try to develop a new variety. Below are several of the many different paths in horticulture.

Arboriculture is the study of trees and how they grow. These professionals may work for tree grooming services, which artistically cut trees in a manner which allows the tree to continue growing. Arboriculturists are also responsible for monitoring and maintaining fruit trees. Grafting, a popular technique used to mix species of plants, can be used by these scientists to produce trees which can produce several kinds of fruit. Other horticulture scientists specialize in flowers, vegetables or fruits. Often, these plants have delicate environments which need to be maintained for maximum plant health and harvest. Horticulturists understand which plants can be planted where in a garden, for maximum beauty and yield.

Another section of horticulture is turf management. Golf courses, hotels, and many luxury establishments have large areas of grass which need extensive management to maintain their beauty. Professionals in this field specialize in grasses and the unique care regiment they need to stay green and lush year-round in some places. Along the same lines, a landscape horticulturalist understands not only the plants which make a great landscape, but also the aesthetics and art which really create beautiful properties. These professionals may own their own business as general contractors and get hired by members of the community to spruce up their property.

Still other areas of horticulture focus in on the cultivation of specific plants. Viticulture is the study of grapes, for the making of wine. Every variety of grapes makes a different kind of wine, and wine-makers always have an experienced viticulturist to guide their efforts. Even simple grapes are actually a complex organism which

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requires the perfect conditions to produce the sugars needed for making wines. The study of horticulture informs this practice and it has been perfected to an art form. However, the battle between nature and man is never resolved.

In the coming years, horticulturalists will face a slew of new enemies. Changing weather patterns will affect the growth and success of plants. It may also usher in new pests and diseases that must be dealt with. A garden, while created by man, is controlled by nature. Horticulture gives man the tools to combat nature, and guide the garden to be productive and fruitful.

Horticulture is the area of agriculture involving the science of growing and caring for plants. Horticulture is socially important because it improves how we use plants, for food and other human purposes, as well as repairing the environment and personal aesthetics. Plants are also very important in environmental protection. They are used to re-vegetate and restore land disturbed by human or natural activities, they control erosion, and they help to clean the air and water. Plants also have an important role in the beautification of urban and rural landscapes and recreation areas. Environmental Programs

Examples of horticulture include the following:

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