

# **Growing Career Opportunities in Horticulture**

**A report prepared by**

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## **RI Horticulture Program Interest Survey Results:**

40 surveys were distributed along with Self-Addressed Stamped Envelopes at the RI School-to-Career SBC-IBC meeting, March 2005.

20 surveys were returned either via mail or handed to me in person before the end of the seminar. 2 schools filled out duplicate surveys resulting in a total of 18 responses from different high schools.

Schools were asked a total of 9 questions in addition to being asked to provide contact information for their horticulture/agriculture program coordinators. If schools did not answer specific questions for whatever reason, results have been noted as "N/A" or not available on the table.

2 high schools did not respond to the survey, but are known to have horticulture or agriculture programs: Exeter-W. Greenwich and Middletown High Schools. Their programs have been included on the survey table, but specific data regarding number of students involved and the grades of those students has been noted as not available.

- 8 out of 18 high schools responding have active horticulture or agriculture programs.
- 11 out of 18 high schools responding have greenhouses, but only 9 out of 18 schools are using their greenhouses for science programs.
- Most high schools have a mix of grades 9-12 participating in their horticulture or agriculture programs.
- An estimated 424 students participate in 6 of the 8 active horticulture or agriculture programs. The additional 2 programs have reported no data.
- 13 out of 18 high schools responding would like to participate in a follow-up meeting to discuss RI high school horticulture education initiatives.
- 7 out of 18 high schools responding would be interested in participating in an advisory committee to help shape a horticulture education continuum in RI.

<b>High School Name</b>	<b>Hort/Ag. Program?</b>	<b>Green-house?</b>	<b>In Use?</b>	<b>Program Coordinator</b>	<b>Grades Involved</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Follow-up Meeting?</b>	<b>Advisory Committee?</b>
Burrillville	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Central Falls	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	No
Chariho	Yes	Yes	Yes	John Del Deo	9-12	140-150	Yes	Yes
Charles Shea	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Coventry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Peter Stetson	10-12	75	Yes	Yes
Cranston Area Career & Tech	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
E. Providence Career & Tech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eddie Jameson	10-12	24	Yes	Yes
Exeter-W. Greenwich*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gwen Millar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Middletown*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mason Hawes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Narragansett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Greg Breene	9-12	N/A	Yes	Yes
N. Smithfield	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pilgrim	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	No
Ponaganset	Yes	Yes	Yes	Loren Andrews	9-12	150	Yes	Yes
Providence School Dept.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
RI School for the Deaf	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Scituate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dave Lewis	9-12	25	Yes	Yes
South Kingstown	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Warwick Vets	No	Yes	Yes	Norma Costen	9-10	N/A	No	No
W. Warwick	No	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	No
Woonsocket	No	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No

## **Growing Career Opportunities in Horticulture**

**Production:** Production jobs are those related to growing plants, shrubs or trees, either for wholesale, commercial or retail sales.

Includes: Nursery and greenhouse growers and managers, importers, wholesalers and brokers, propagators, irrigators, field workers and many others.

**Retail:** Retail employment includes opportunities in garden centers, retail nurseries and floral shops.

Includes: Florists and floral designers, retail nursery workers and managers, sales and customer service positions, and many others.

**Services:** Service jobs are those related to all aspects of landscape design; installation; maintenance; lawn care and tree care.

Includes: Landscape contractors and grounds keepers, golf course managers, land planners, landscape architects, landscape designers, supervisors and directors, pesticide technicians, arborists, interior landscapers, conservationists and many others.

**Other Opportunities:** People who love plants also work in fields such as:

- Horticulture Therapy
- National Parks Service
- Federal, State or Local Government
- Education – Secondary, Community College, College or University levels
- Education – Personal Enrichment and Professional Development
- Research & Development
- Garden Writing & Photography
- Organic Food Production
- Landscape Preservation and Archaeology

## Regional Career Preparation – Educational Programs in Horticulture and Related Studies in MA, CT & RI

### Massachusetts Programs of 2-years or less

MA College Name	Type of Program	Program Title/s
Cape Cod Community College <a href="http://www.capecod.mass.edu">www.capecod.mass.edu</a>	<b>Certificates</b> (29 credits maximum)	Horticulture Horticulture Technician Landscape Maintenance Technician Landscape Construction Technician
Holyoke Community College <a href="http://www.hcc.mass.edu">www.hcc.mass.edu</a>	<b>Associate in Arts</b> Arts & Science (60 credits minimum) <b>Associate in Science</b> Arts & Science (62 credits minimum)	Natural Resource Studies, Transfer Option to UMASS  Pre-Forestry and Environmental Science, Transfer Option to State University New York
Mount Wachusett Community College <a href="http://www.mwcc.edu">www.mwcc.edu</a>	<b>Associate in Science</b> (67 credits minimum)	Natural Resource Technology
North Shore Community College <a href="http://www.northshore.edu">www.northshore.edu</a>	<b>Certificate</b> (31 credits minimum)  <b>Associate in Applied Science</b> (65 credits minimum)	Floriculture  Floriculture Horticulture Urban & Community Forestry
Springfield Technical Community College <a href="http://www.stcc.edu">www.stcc.edu</a>	<b>Certificate</b> (28 credits minimum)  <b>Associate in Science</b> (67 credits minimum)	Landscape Design & Management  Landscape Design & Management Technology
<b>Other Schools:</b> New England School of Gardening <a href="http://www.towerhillbq.org/thwebclwdem.html">www.towerhillbq.org/thwebclwdem.html</a>	<b>Certificate</b> (72 credits minimum, through Clark University)	Gardening
Stockbridge School <a href="http://www.umass.edu/stockbridge">www.umass.edu/stockbridge</a>	<b>Associate in Science</b> (60 credits minimum, through UMASS-Amherst)	Arboriculture & Community Forest Management Floriculture Crop Production General Horticulture Landscape Contracting Management of Woody Plants Retail Floral Design Turfgrass Management

## Regional Career Preparation –

### Educational Programs in Horticulture and Related Studies in MA, CT & RI

#### Connecticut Programs of 2-years or less

CT College Name	Type of Program	Program Title/s
Naugatuck Valley Community College <a href="http://www.nvctc.commnet.edu">www.nvctc.commnet.edu</a>	<b>Certificates</b> (27 credits minimum)  <b>Associate in Science</b> (66 credits minimum)	Horticulture Landscape Design  Horticulture
<b>Other School:</b> Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture (through UCONN) <a href="http://www.cannr.uconn.edu/rh/">www.cannr.uconn.edu/rh/</a>	<b>Associate in Applied Science</b> (64 credits minimum)	Horticulture Turfgrass Management

There are currently no horticulture programs of 2-years or less in Rhode Island.

#### Bachelor's Degree and Graduate Programs in Rhode Island

##### URI - College of the Environment and Life Sciences Plant Degrees

- Environmental Plant Biology, B.S.;
- Water and Soil Science, B.S.;
- Environmental Horticulture and Turf Management, B.S.;
- Landscape Architecture, B.L.A.;
- Wildlife and Conservation Biology, B.S.;
- Entomology, M.S. and Ph.D.; and
- Plant Science, M.S. and Ph.D.

Find more information at [www.uri.edu/cels](http://www.uri.edu/cels)

**Rhode Island School of Design** also offers a Master's degree program in Landscape Architecture, resulting in an M.L.A. Find more information at [www.risd.edu](http://www.risd.edu)

## **Resource Information on Horticulture Careers & Career Prep**

### **Books:**

Careers for Plant Lovers & other Green Thumb Types

by Blythe Camenson, publ. 2004 by McGraw-Hill.

Careers in Horticulture and Botany

by Jerry Garner, publ. 1997 by VGM Career Horizons.

Opportunities in Biological Science Careers

by Kathleen Belikoff, publ. 2004 by McGraw-Hill.

Opportunities in Horticulture Careers

by Jan Goldberg, publ. 1995 by VGM Career Horizons.

VGM's Career Portraits: Plants

by J. Kelsey & S. Anderson, publ. 1998 by VGM Career Horizons.

### **Local & National Green Industry Organizations:**

RI Nursery & Landscape Association, [www.rinla.org](http://www.rinla.org)

American Nursery & Landscape Association, [www.anla.org](http://www.anla.org)

American Society of Landscape Architects, [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)

American Assoc. of Botanical Gardens & Arboreta, [www.aabga.org](http://www.aabga.org)