Through networking and realizing the chance for a career, Kyle Waters opted to put all efforts into succeeding while at Oklahoma State University. OSU allowed Waters to complete an internship serving as the turf superintendent for the OSU football, baseball, softball and soccer teams. “I was able to help the guys on the [OSU baseball] team by providing the best playing surface possible,” Waters said. Waters is now the vice president of operations at The Home Depot Center where he oversees all of the operation aspects. This is a 250-acre multi-sports facility in Carson, California, and is known as the “Official U.S. Olympic Training Site.” If you can envision yourself being a play maker on the field choose horticulture as your major.

Kyle Waters
Stillwater, Oklahoma
B.S. Horticulture, May 2003
Vice President of Operations
The Home Depot Center, Carson, California

A degree in Horticulture prepares students for a variety of careers. Some of our alums have found employment in the following:

- Greenhouse Manager
- Floral Crop Grower or Marketer
- Floral Shop Manager or Designer
- Seed and Bulb Sales
- Nursery Worker or Manager
- Plant Propagator
- Nursery Sales Representative
- Nursery Inspector
- Garden Center Manager
- Arborist
- Urban Horticulturist
- Park Horticulturist
- Golf Course Superintendent
- Home and Commercial Lawn Care
- Fruit and Vegetable or Sod Grower
- Teacher and/or Researcher
- Extension Specialist
What is horticulture?

Horticulture is the art, science and technology used to produce fruits, nuts, vegetables, flowers, trees, shrubs and turfgrass for food and beautification of the environment. The OSU Horticulture program addresses these various aspects of the profession through courses which provide theoretical knowledge and technical skills, including special problem research opportunities. Students majoring in Horticulture at OSU can choose to specialize their degree in one of four options: Horticultural Business, Horticultural Science, Public Horticulture or Turf Management.

Options

**Horticultural Business**-This option prepares graduates for immediate entry into a horticultural business enterprise. Students can tailor their horticulture courses to their interests, obtaining either general training or a focus on a particular area, such as nursery production. The option includes a choice between two built-in minors: Agricultural Economics or General Business. These minors appear on student transcripts, and can offer an advantage when seeking employment. This option also could help prepare a student for a graduate degree in Agribusiness, or an MBA.

**Horticultural Science**-This option is especially appropriate for students wanting careers in horticultural research and development, academia, or extension. Students learn both the “why” and “how” of horticultural science, including topics such as plant physiology and genetics. The strong emphasis in basic sciences also prepares students for graduate study in horticulture or a related discipline.

**Public Horticulture**-A relatively new term, public horticulture, refers to the design, installation and management of horticultural plantings in public spaces usually associated with not-for-profit organizations such as arboreta, botanical gardens and zoos. OSU is home to such an organization-the statewide Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum system, including the Headquarters Gardens located at the edge of the campus in Stillwater. The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University is one of only a few schools in the United States to offer a B.S. degree with a recognized option in Public Horticulture.

**Turf Management**-Our multi-disciplinary, nationally-respected turfgrass program provides a well-rounded education, and prepares students to solve problems creatively. Get hands-on training at our turfgrass research center on the edge of campus, then polish your skills with an internship experience. Students may choose courses that lead to a built-in minor in Soil Science while completing this option. Graduates are prepared for challenging careers in turfgrass management or for advanced studies in turfgrass science.

For the most up-to-date information on the Horticulture department, please visit www.hortla.okstate.edu