

**What is the Census of Horticultural Specialties?**

The Census of Horticultural Specialties collects information to provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of the horticultural sector of the U.S. economy. It is the only source of detailed production and sales data for floriculture, nursery and specialty crops. For the 2009 census, an operation is defined as any place that grew and sold \$10,000 or more of horticultural specialty products during the census year.

**Why should I respond to the Census of Horticulture?**

As with the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the Census of Horticulture is your voice, your future and your responsibility. Your responses will ensure the continued growth and sustainability of horticultural production in the United States. In addition, census results can help you make informed decisions about the future of your own horticultural operation.

**Must I respond to the survey?**

Yes. United States law ([Title 7, U.S. Code](#)) requires all those who receive a census form must respond.

**How will the census be conducted?**

Census forms will be mailed in December to more than 30,000 establishments nationwide who are currently engaged in horticultural production activities. Responses are due by February 5, 2010.

**What types of questions will be asked?**

The census will look at horticultural activities during 2009, including:

- Production of horticultural crops
- Value of horticultural products
- Square footage used for growing crops
- Production expenses, and more

**Will my information be kept confidential?**

Absolutely. Respondents are guaranteed by law ([Title 7, U.S. Code](#)) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. The report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation. The privacy of individual records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

**When will results of the census be released?**

Results from the Census of Horticultural Specialties will be published in December 2010 and will be available online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

**Who will use the data published from the Census of Horticultural Specialties?**

The agriculture industry and all levels of government use the information to prepare a wide variety of horticultural-related programs, economic models, legislative initiatives, and market analysis and feasibility studies. These programs directly affect the life and communities of growers and help to improve horticultural technologies and practices.

**What if I want more information?**

For more information, call (800) 727-9540 or visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).