

# THE CANADIAN ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE SECTOR WANTS TO BE A FULL PARTNER FOR DELIVERING SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS FOR CANADA

## ISSUE:

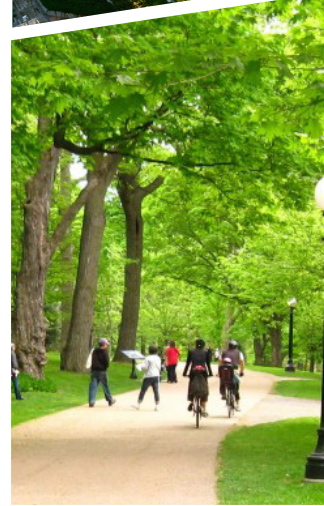
Canadian producers of ornamental horticulture products and related service providers deliver proven solutions to several environmental and climate-related challenges and make important contributions to the health and well-being of Canadians, and the significance of these benefits is often overlooked by policymakers and government officials.

The filtering capacity of ornamental plants and trees improves the quality of air, soil, and water through the removal of toxins, chemicals, and heavy metals. They also absorb and sequester a large amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Ornamental plants and trees help to reduce soil erosion while tree canopies and green roofs reduce urban heat island effects. Ornamental horticulture preserves and increases biodiversity as well as provides food and habitat to birds and pollinating insects.

Ornamental primary producers also have many opportunities to become even more efficient and environmentally sustainable while reducing the carbon intensities of their operations and integrating innovative technologies and environmental best practices into their business models.

## CHALLENGES:

- There has been an ongoing lack of recognition of the incredible ecosystem services that ornamental horticulture products and services deliver, as well as the need to support a strong and sustainable ornamental sector to ensure domestically sourced access to these products is maintained.
- The Canadian ornamental sector is committed to helping Canada move toward a net-zero carbon future but wants to be a full partner in that pursuit through the implementation of supportive policies and programs.
- New technologies that ornamental businesses require for water and energy management and reducing the use of plastics for transportation and packaging are very expensive and largely sourced from overseas.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that the Canadian ornamental horticulture sector has access to all the required tools, technologies, and materials available to be resilient, adaptable, and responsive to evolving market demands, our recommendations include:

- Public recognition of the importance of ornamental horticulture products and associated greenspaces for both the mitigation of carbon emissions and adaptation to a changing climate
- Development of a new green tax credit for individuals and municipalities to incentive increased planting of plants and trees that have significant environmental benefits such as absorption and sequestering of carbon dioxide, reducing erosion, increasing biodiversity, and mitigating urban heat islands
- New grant program that helps ornamental primary producers and service operators become more sustainable by incentivizing the investment in new environmental technologies and less carbon-intensive practices