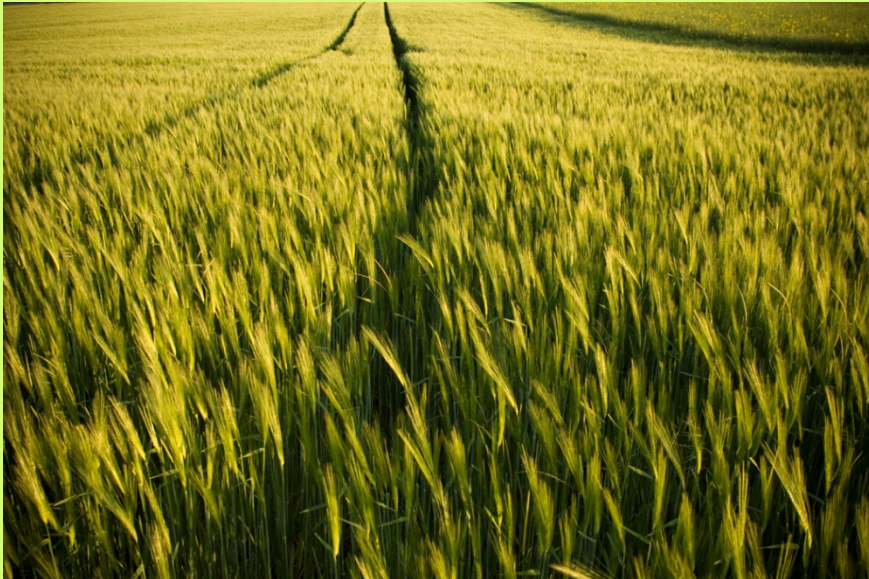




# Horticultural Businesses and Agricultural Land



# Horticulture – A Branch of Agriculture

- Branch of Agriculture concerned with production, sale, installation and maintenance of plant material and produce from plant material.
- Word simply means the “the culture of gardens”.



# Landscape Horticulture – A Branch of Horticulture

- Includes occupations that create and maintain gardens and green space.
- Landscape contractors, landscape maintenance companies, lawn care companies, greenhouse operations, nursery growers and garden centres.



# Landscape Horticulture – A Branch of Horticulture



- Activities are related to agriculture
- Based on the knowledge of plants and gardens.

# Landscape Horticulture – A Branch of Horticulture

- Typical operations have great deal of overlap.
- Many growers will also be landscape contractors and offer maintenance services.
- Many landscapers will grow plant material.
- Specialization may happen in larger markets but normally horticultural businesses are a mix of the various services described.
- Can be called “urban agriculture”



# Legislative Rationale

- Landscape Horticulture comes under Agriculture Canada and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)



- OMAFRA provides extension personnel for turf, nursery and landscape



# Legislative Rationale

- Classified by Workers Services Insurance Board (WSIB) under Agricultural Rate Codes



- Statistics Canada tracks sector statistics under agriculture and primary industries



# Legislative Rationale

- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) includes landscape horticulture within the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Sector Council (CAHRC)
- Included in the Labour Issues Coordinating Committee (LICC) chaired by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture



# Legislative Rationale

- Landscape/Horticulture is included in the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council (OACC)
- Landscape/Horticulture is included in the Agricultural Adaptation Council
- Included under special agricultural rules with the Ministry of Revenue

# Legislative Rationale

- Included in the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) along with Apple Growers, Fruit and Vegetable Growers etc.
- Treated the same as Agriculture by the Ontario Ministry of Labour- (Special Rules for Landscape Gardeners)

# Education Rationale

- All agricultural schools offer horticultural programs.
- EG. University of Guelph, confers a B.S.A. (Bach. Of Science in Agriculture) to its' 4 yr. Horticultural Degree graduates.



# Education Rationale



- Typical curriculum's consists of applied agricultural based subjects such as soils, botany, irrigation, ornamental crops, pest control, pruning etc.

# Similarities to Agriculture



- Deals with the management of plant life
- Diverse operations subject to biological processes, weather, seasonality and perishable products
- Dominated by small family run businesses
- Very little division of labour – same people perform many different tasks

# Other Similarities to Agriculture



- Nature sets the clock – certain biological processes (seeding, germination, cultivation, mowing, pest control, fertility management, planting, transplanting, harvesting etc) can only be performed at certain times.

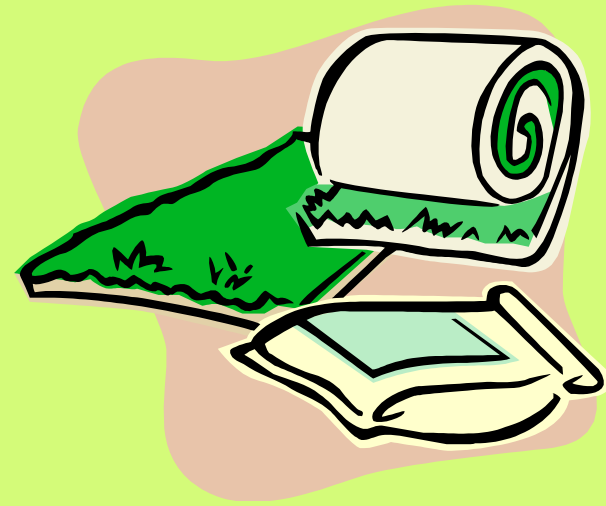


# Other Similarities to Agriculture



- Seasonal Workplace
- Specific tasks can only be performed at specific times of the year (transplanting, seeding, planting etc.)
- Involves the nurturing of living, perishable plant material. It is an agricultural pursuit.

# Other Similarities to Agriculture



- Equipment and processes are very similar (tractors, fertilizer spreaders, cultivators, irrigation equipments, seeders, skid steer loaders, dump trucks, hand tools etc.)

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Requires large land base for equipment and garden supplies such as topsoil, compost and mulches. Industrial property rents are too prohibitive for the land required.



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



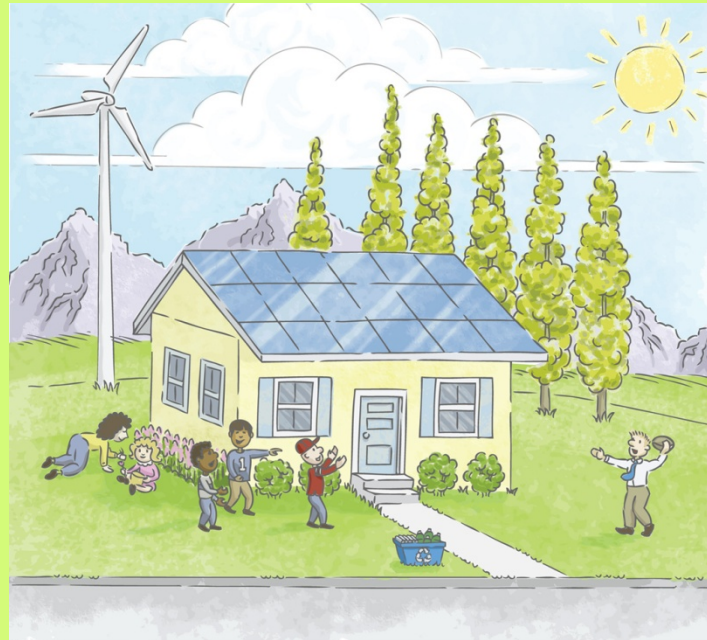
- Businesses generally operate 8 months of the year. Difficult to sustain year round rental commitment on 8-month cash flow.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Plant material is grown and/or delivered to home site and then distributed to various customers.
- Essential to be close to plant material to ensure proper watering and maintenance.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Easier to provide this type of care if material is on agricultural land close to the residence.



# Landscape Horticulture Land Use

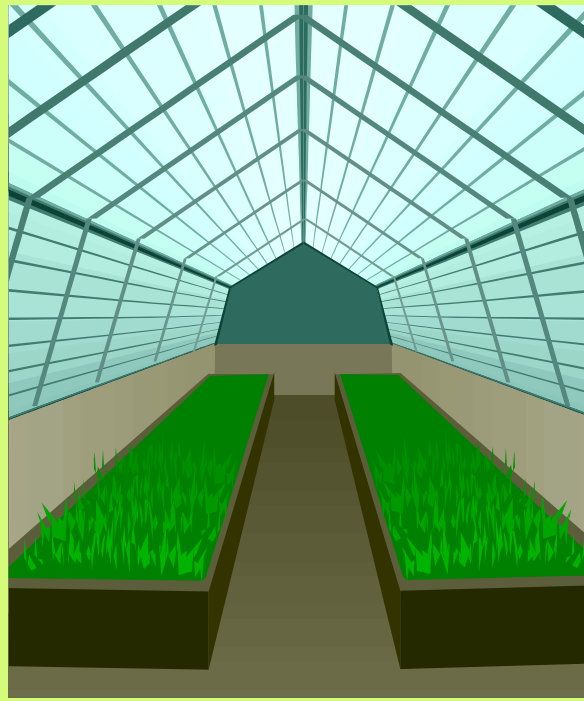


- Agriculture land provides opportunity to expand and diversify into related sectors such as nursery and greenhouse growing.



# Landscape Horticulture Land Use

- Many landscape operations store tender plant material in greenhouses during the winter. An industrial base would not allow for this type of storage.



# Landscape Horticulture Land Use



- Many landscape operations bring back grass clippings, dead annuals, leaves and other organic materials and use this as compost in their farm fields. An industrial base would not be appropriate.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Ability to diversify is essential in a seasonal operation.
- This flexibility and integration helps to create prosperity and viability.
- Could not happen except on agricultural land.



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Consider impact of proposed land use policies.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Restrictions can curtail and limit the growth of one of the few segments in agriculture that is experiencing growth.
- Restrictions will limit ability of the public to utilize plant material to create the green infrastructure that is so necessary for continued quality of life.





# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Separate issues of best stewardship practices and property standards from planning and zoning process.
- All agriculture no matter what commodity must take responsibility to limit the negative impact of their operations.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Problems of noise, pollution, soil and water degradation, dust, smells and poor property maintenance can exist with any property regardless of zoning.
- Stewardship and property standards apply to all properties

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Better to deal with these issues separately outside of planning and zoning legislation



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Restrictive and segmentation approach to land use policies risks limiting the flexibility of traditional farmers to expand into plant production and landscape horticulture activities.



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Most horticultural production operations evolved from traditional farming.
- For example:
  - Cannon Nurseries evolved from Pig production.
  - Sheridan Nurseries started as market gardeners and Landscape Designers.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Putzer Nurseries and Braun Nurseries started as landscape contractors.
- Aldershot Landscaping started as market gardeners.
- Mori Nurseries began as tender fruit producers.



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Landscape Horticulture does not fit on industrial, commercial and institutional zoned land
- Where does Landscape Horticulture fit?
- Agriculture land is the best fit

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use



- Landscape Horticultural operations are green-space professionals that can help society improve their environment by providing economic, aesthetic, environmental, recreational, therapeutic, lifestyle and even spiritual benefits.

# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Do not let property standards issues limit the growth of this “urban agricultural” profession



# Landscape Horticulture and Land Use

- Landscape Horticulture operations are the experts at remediation of land
- They are able to screen unsightly views with berms and plants, mitigate the effect of pollution, provide noise buffers and beautify property.

# Landscape Horticulture belongs on Agricultural Land





# Summary

Why is it difficult for a horticultural business to locate on urban land?



# Why it is difficult to locate on urban land.

- No outdoor storage for bulk materials
- Not conducive for watering plant material
- Living near the workplace allows for plant maintenance
- Seasonality necessitates diversity of operations into other horticultural areas
- Year round rents does not fit seasonality of the business



# Why do we consider ourselves part of agriculture





- Legislative rationale
- Educational rationale
- Historical rationale
- Profile rationale
- Similarities of “Urban Agriculture” to traditional agriculture

# Mitigating impacts of Horticultural Businesses

- Require all properties to submit a Property Standards and Dust Plan

## **Appearance**

- Require a 3 metre setback
- Setback will be screened with a combination of wooden fence, berm, evergreens and green space so that operations will be hidden
- Develop guidelines regarding percentage of the property devoted to non-growing activities

# Outdoor Storage Standards

- All material will be stored in a orderly manner
- Salt piles will only be allowed in a covered location
- Provincial Guidelines regarding fuel will be strictly adhered to
- Bulk materials will be contained
- Bins will be used for garbage and recycling
- Excess job site materials will be neatly stacked

# Hours of Operation

- Hours of operations will be from 6am to 7pm. (with exceptions for snow)
- Municipal guidelines and bylaws will govern noise.
- Owners will ensure that equipment is well maintained

# Soil Mixing and Dust

- Any mixing of topsoil will be done to reduce the amount of dust and noise coming from the operation
- Wind speed and direction will be taken into account when mixing soils
- Calcium will be used as a dust inhibitor where possible

# What about snow ploughing operations?

Many farmers are involved in snow clearing. The reality is that Canadian winters requires off- farm income during the slow periods.

# Where do Horticultural Businesses fit?

- Presently no zoning exists that allows the full spectrum of horticultural operations