

We Grow That?

Ohio farmers grow about 200 different crops, some you'd guess and some that would surprise you, including:

- Cucumbers
- Potatoes
- Pumpkins
- Apples
- Grapes
- Peaches
- Strawberries
- Llamas & alpacas
- Aquaculture (fish farming)
- Maple Syrup

Honey Production - Ohio had 28,000 bee colonies in 1996. It takes 160,000 bee hours to produce one pound of pure honey. Bees collect nectar from the flowers of the plants. As they move from plant to plant, they pick up pollen on their legs and carry it from flower to flower. This pollination process enables the plants to produce fruits and vegetables. Ohio Department of Agriculture estimates bees pollination value to Ohio crops at \$225 million.

Timber - Trees are grown as a crop to be harvested. We call these places "tree farms." Ohio has over 800 tree farmers. Trees are divided into two groups: needle leaf trees and broadleaf trees. Ohio has both kinds. Needle leaf trees are often called evergreens. Growing evergreen trees for Christmas is a big part of Ohio's horticulture industry. It takes 8 to 10 years to grow a pine to Christmas tree size. The most popular Ohio evergreen is the Scotch pine. Hardwoods such as oak and maple trees are used to make fine furniture and cabinets.

Horticulture

Growing plants for our yards and gardens is part of what Ohio's nursery and horticulture industry does. Maybe you've visited a greenhouse or garden center recently. Because many people like to grow plants as a hobby, horticulture is a part of Ohio agriculture that thrives near cities. Horticulture now accounts for about 42 percent of agricultural production, contributing about \$1 billion a year to our economy.

