



AmericanHort

WORKING FOR HORTICULTURE

ABOUT US

AmericanHort unites the horticultural industry and represents professionals from all facets of the industry.

From growers to retailers, breeders to installers, suppliers to innovators, students to researchers, and everyone in between, people and businesses across the horticulture industry call AmericanHort their inspiration, voice, community, business partner, leader, and advocate.

With farm gate crop value of roughly \$17 billion, total industry economic output of \$348 billion, and directly supporting 2.32 million full- and part-time jobs, the horticulture industry is a key player in the American economy.

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Research & Innovation

Nursery and greenhouse crops account for 15% of the total value of U.S. crop agriculture, yet our industry receives less than 1% of USDA research funding. While horticulture does not receive, nor does it seek, government subsidies, public investment remains essential. Strategic support for research, plant pest prevention, and mitigation helps sustain the critical infrastructure our industry relies on to thrive. We strongly support several USDA programs that serve as pillars of this infrastructure.

FLORICULTURE AND NURSERY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative (FNRI) is a unique partnership involving USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), universities, and industry (AmericanHort and SAF). It is often held up as a model for other industries. FNRI is vital to our industry efforts to overcome pest and disease challenges, enhance the efficiency of our production practices, develop and promote sustainable growing practices, and advance the economic, environmental, and human health benefits of our industry's products and services. Over the years, Congress has built the initiative up to over \$5.5M annually. We will seek additional funding of \$2M in FY2026 to keep pace with rising costs and to tackle additional research.

IR-4 PROGRAM

The IR-4 Program was established to facilitate regulatory approval of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops, including environmental horticulture crops, to promote public health and well-being. Funding for the IR-4 Program remained flat for many years at \$11.9M annually. Coupled with rising research costs and service fees, the IR-4's impact is diminishing. The number of field trials decreased 21% in the Environmental Horticulture Program alone from 2016-2018. We are asking Congress to increase financial support for the IR-4 Project in FY 2026 from \$15M to the Congressionally authorized \$25M.

WE SUPPORT:

- Modernizing agricultural research facilities and increasing funding for high-priority research focused on the horticulture industry.
- Expanding the Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- Increasing funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and improving stakeholder consultation processes.
- Strengthening U.S. plant health protections by increasing funding for the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program under PPA Section 7721.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [AMERICANHORT.ORG](https://americanhort.org)