



Growing Healthy Trees, Deep Roots, and Strong Communities

Who We Are

Spring Grove Nursery is a sixth and seventh-generation family farm in Grundy County, Illinois. Since 1999, we have grown shade, ornamental, and evergreen trees that support municipalities, park districts, landscapers, and green industry partners throughout the Midwest. As a multi-generational family business, we know firsthand how national policy decisions shape the health of our farm, our workforce, and the communities we serve.

Our Priorities for Congress

- Labor & Workforce: Support **sensible H-2A and H2B reforms** that expand access, contain costs, and allow experienced agricultural workers to continue contributing legally. **Funding for the Farm Labor Stabilization Pilot** grant program, which our farm received but has not been reimbursed yet.
- Farm Bill Reauthorization: Pass a strong Farm Bill with robust funding for **Horticulture, Research, Rural Development, and Crop Insurance** programs that keep farms like ours viable.
- Research & Development: Continued **support for USDA programs** that help us grow healthier, stronger trees such as the Specialty Crop Block Program and the Horticultural Research Institute.
- Pesticides & Fertilizers: Access to safe, **science-based plant protection tools**.
- Trade & Plant Health: **Invest in infrastructure** and workforce development for trucking, rail, ports, and waterways to move products efficiently and affordably.
- Business Operations: **Easing regulatory burdens** that hit small farms and businesses especially hard.
- Sustainability & Stewardship: Protect grower access to science-based tools, water, and nutrient management systems, while **encouraging innovation** in sustainable growing practices.

These issues are rooted in the simple day-to-day work of growing trees and caring for our community. Our industry contributes billions annually to the U.S. economy, while providing environmental and community benefits through healthier urban forests, cleaner air and water, and stronger local economies. In a time of political division, it is our hope that trees unify people; we have all experienced the beauty, power, and benefits of trees. On our family farm, we aren't just growing healthy trees - but deep roots and strong communities. Thank you for your time and support.

Becky Thomas & Maggie Thomas Harper
Spring Grove Nursery Growers and Canopy Curators

106 E. Spring Road, Mazon, IL 60444 P: 815.448.2097

E: bthomas@SpringGroveNursery.com www.SpringGroveNursery.com