Nursery Visit Briefing

Hosted by Spring Grove Nursery

Illinois nurseries are family-owned businesses that grow the trees and plants used to support healthier communities throughout our state.

Why Nursery Production is Different

Nursery production is different than row crop farming. Trees and many shrub varieties require years of care before they are ready for sale.

Growers make long-term investments in land, labor, custom equipment, and research, while navigating many variables including weather, pests, labor shortages, and changing markets.

Why This Matters

- Trees planted today provide physical and mental health benefits for generations.
- Illinois-grown plants improve neighborhoods, parks, schools, and public spaces.
- Healthy nurseries support contractors, municipalities, garden centers, and thousands of Illinois jobs.
- Most Illinois nurseries are family-owned businesses providing many jobs in their local communities.

About Today's Host

Established: 1999
6th generation family farm

Location: Mazon, IL; Rooted in the heart of Grundy County

Products Grown: Shade, Ornamental, and Evergreen trees

Markets Served: Landscape contractors, Garden centers, Municipalities, Landscape architects, Private land owners

Illinois Green Industry at a Glance

394	5,539	206	85,000+	$5.2 BILLION
Licensed Nurseries	Landscape Service Companies	Registered Irrigation Contractors	Illinois Jobs	Annual Economic Impact

LANDSCAPE ILLINOIS
THE STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

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Thank you for your supporting specialty crop agriculture by visiting an Illinois nursery and learning more about the family-owned businesses that strengthen the landscape industry in Illinois.

Federal Priorities for Illinois Nurseries

Landscape Illinois and AmericanHort work together to advance federal policies that strengthen specialty crop growers and the businesses that depend on them.

1 WORKFORCE

Reliable Skilled Labor

The nursery industry depends on a stable legal workfoce to grow, harvest, and ship products.

WE SUPPORT

- Modernizing the H-2A program
- Improving processing efficiency
- Creating a reliable legal agricultural workforce

2 SPECIALTY CROP POLICY

Nursery production cycles require long-term policy solutions.

Nursery crops have production cycles measured in years rather than months and this requires a different type of support from policymakers.

WE SUPPORT

- Specialty crop provisions in the Farm Bill
- Improved crop insurance
- Improvements to the Tree Assistance Program
- Investments in automation and innovation

3 RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Healthy plants require ongoing investment in research.

Federal research programs help growers combat invasive pests and diseases, improve production practices, and develop sustainable growing practices.

WE SUPPORT

- Floriculture & Nursery Research
- IR-4 Program
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative