Overview

Horticulture in agricultural terms is the business of cultivating crops and plants including fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, herbs, medicinal plants, sprouts and mushrooms just to name a few. Horticulture also refers to ornamental trees and shrubs and may include flower species for the flower trade. In many ways it has a contrasting role in agriculture to that of field crops with broadacre farming practices.

Growers, or horticulturists, apply modern farming technologies and scientific knowledge to grow and produce crops for human consumption in intensive settings. Horticulture may also include large-scale conservation, design and landscape restoration projects. There are many ways in which horticulture plays an important contributing part to the economic fabric of all countries, fruit and vegetable production perhaps being the main focus.

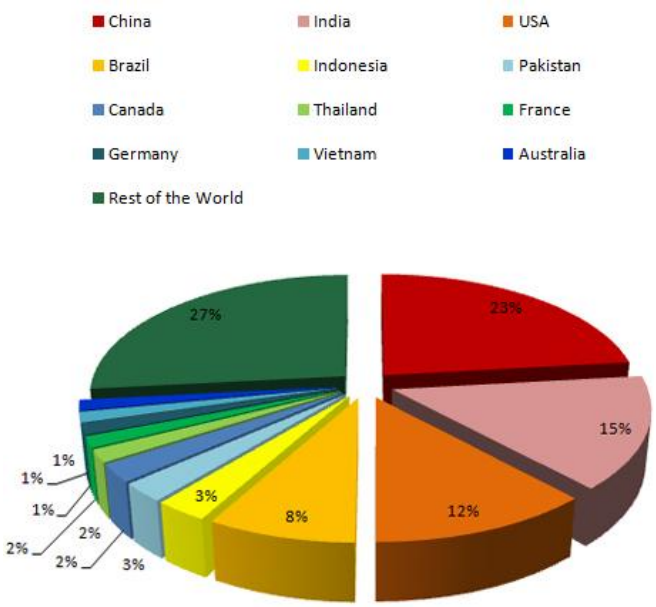
Plant propagation and cultivation to improve plant growth, yield, quality, nutritional value and resistance to disease and other environmental stresses all form part of the horticultural sector.

RLF has Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products for all types of horticulture. RLF Specialty Liquid Fertiliser products are scientifically formulated, deliver a complete and balanced nutrient package for plants and are designed to be either broad-spectrum, crop-specific or have single element nutrients to address crop and soil deficiencies. They are perfect for horticulture and are available from very small, through to bulk container quantities.

Fast Facts

- In 2016, the world's 5 top farming countries, (figures ascertained through fertiliser use) were China, India, USA, Brazil, Indonesia. Fertiliser use is a good indicator of agriculture generally, but because horticulture is so diverse many other countries also join the ranks as top producing countries – even if it is only for one or two particular commodoties.
- Horticulture is the term given to the second most popular type of farming and agricultural system used by farmers and growers world-wide. Literally meaning 'garden culture' it refers to the intensive growing of crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, pulses, flowers, herbs, mushrooms and cereals – but on a smaller more confined scale than broadacre.
- Horticulture also involves the widest variety of crop types possible – anything that grows on an intensive small-holding farming enterprise is considered horticulture, so long as it is for human consumption.
- There are key challenges for horticulture across many countries and these include : land quality, land availability, increased protectionism, the role of supermarkets and corporate farms in the marketplace, conservation of pure seed varieties, urbanisation, energy, transport and storage, producing healthier foods without inappropriate levels of pesticide use and better labelling of processed commodoties.
- In Australia the challenges can also be related to : rural population decline, the trends towards highly-specialised horticultural endeavours (even 'hobby' farming) as opposed to inter-generational family business, disconnect between farmgate and food prices, keeping prices affordable and issues relating to food labelling regulations.
- Crop nutrition and crop protection reforms in horticulture are accepted as being necessary across all growing environments, so that yield increases and crop densities are derived from these modern farming practices, rather than by increased land use.
- More sustainable farm practices will drive more horticulture success because of consumer preference for fresh and healthy, organic or sustainable produce. Also changes to some of the traditional practices will need to be made with more consideration given to hydroponics, irrigation and under cover systems.
- In all horticultural environments technology will ensure greater outcomes and this involves information, equipment, processing, packaging and generally acquiring the knowledge to advance better outcomes for horticulture.

Top Countries by Fertiliser Use



RLF Products for Horticulture Crops

SEED OR SOAK	CROP NUTRITION	FOLIAR NPK	OTHER
UNIDIP UNIVERSAL DIP	Horticulture Plus	POWER PK	Fertigation Plus
			
■ **Nutritional-based broad-spectrum nutrient charger** ■ Imrpoves vegetative reproduction and seedling establishment ■ Replaces air spaces with essential nutrients to generate better root and shoot development ■ Suitable for billet dipping, root soaking, stems and root dipping and transplanting	■ **1 specific Ultra Foliar fertiliser with 12 essential nutrients** ■ Leaf applied, efficiently absorbed with nutrients immediately available to the plant ■ Protective qualities that guard against soil nutrient variability and deficiency ■ Delivers root mass of greater size and volume, returning more matter to the soil and enhancing natural soil fertility	■ **Highly concentrated liquid phosphorus and potassium** ■ Imminently versatile - suitable for furrow injection, fertigation or foliar ■ Near neutral pH and free of chloride and sulphate ■ Easily mixed with UAN and urea for foliar spraying and with high citric acid content is highly suitable for foliar tank mixes	■ **Specialised liquid fertiliser for irrigation systems** ■ High quality crop nutrition for orchards, vineyards and vegetable crops particularly rich in nutritions that have limited mobility in soil solutions ■ Contains optimum levels and nutrients, inlcuding NPK, delivered through irrigation or furrow injection ■ Easy to mix, quick to disperse and friendly on irrigation equipment