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There were 735 growers in 2009, compared to 842 growers in 2008. The 2009 wholesale value of sales by commercial flower and foliage producers in Pennsylvania totaled \$155.3 million, \$171,637,000 less than in 2008. Pennsylvania ranked ninth nationally in wholesale sales of floriculture crops.

All values in the following tables are **wholesale equivalent** value of sales; they were derived by multiplying the average wholesale price by the total quantity sold.

The value of sales at wholesale of total bedding or garden plants for operations with over \$100,000 in sales was \$74.9 million, down from 2008. Sales of herbaceous perennials were also down slightly to \$16.7 million.

The total covered growing area for Pennsylvania in 2009 was 20.1 million square feet. Covered growing area included: glass greenhouses, 2.1 million square feet; fiberglass and other rigid greenhouses, 2.0 million square feet; film plastic (single/multi) greenhouses, 16.1 million square feet; and shade and temporary cover, 459,000 square feet. Growers also used 1,618 acres of open ground in 2009.

**About the Survey:** The Commercial Floriculture Survey is conducted annually by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in 15 states. It is a "census" of all known operations with more than \$10,000 in floriculture sales. For operations with more than \$100,000 in sales, detailed data is collected about specific varieties.

These results were compiled from the 2009 Census of Horticulture Specialties, in which some previous information was changed or updated based on new data discovered from additional operations. In order to maintain comparability within this 15-State (including Pennsylvania) program, information for the 2008-2009 census was collected through an ongoing list building system. Operations are classified by summing the totals of actual plant sales reported in the questionnaire, which lessens the chance of non-floriculture plant material being included.

Data summarized in the tables showing grower numbers, hired workers, and growing area represent all growers having sales of \$10,000 or more. The area and labor statistics will not be comparable between the two published years because they include nursery production area and labor for 2009, due to joint data collection efforts with the 2009 Census of Horticulture.

The results of the survey are available to the public. Associations use these statistics when working with policy makers at the state and national levels. University Extension specialists justify research grants and other activities with statistics that describe the size and importance of the industry in each state. Banks and other lending institutions often use the data when evaluating loan applications. Individual producer data is kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other reports to prepare state and national statistics. Individual information is exempted from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Pennsylvania: Number of Growers, Reported Gross Value of Sales, 2008-2009**

Value of Sales	2008	2009
	(number)	(number)
\$10,000 - \$19,999	132	124
\$20,000 - \$39,999	170	173
\$40,000 - \$49,999	80	64
\$50,000 - \$99,999	247	145
\$100,000 - \$499,999	161	176
\$500,000 or More	52	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>735</b>
	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Expanded wholesale value <sup>1</sup>	172,918	155,281

<sup>1</sup> Wholesale value of sales as reported by growers with \$100,000 or more in sales of floriculture crops plus a calculated wholesale value of sales for growers with sales below \$100,000. The value of sales for growers below the \$100,000 level was estimated by multiplying the number of growers in each size group by the mid-point of each dollar value range.

**Pennsylvania: Growing Area by Type of Cover, All Operations with \$10,000+ Sales, 2008-2009**

Type of Cover	2008	2009
	(number)	(number)
Total number of growers	842	735
	(1,000 square feet)	
Glass greenhouses	2,044	2,101
Fiberglass & other rigid greenhouses	2,356	2,023
Film plastic (single/multi) greenhouses	15,331	16,116
<b>TOTAL GREENHOUSE COVER</b>	<b>19,731</b>	<b>20,240</b>
Shade and temporary cover	398	459
<b>TOTAL COVERED AREA</b>	<b>20,129</b>	<b>20,699</b>
	(acres)	(acres)
Open ground	622	1,618

<sup>1</sup> Totals are not comparable between years, see above for explanation.