The **2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties report**, released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), shows that horticulture operations in the United States sold a total of $13.8 billion in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops in 2019, down slightly from 2014. The number of horticulture operations decreased 11% during this time to 20,655.

Other flowering and foliar annuals had an increase in total sales from 2014, increasing 92.5% to $21.7 million in sales in 2019.

Annual bedding and garden plants had an increase in total sales from 2014, up $1.40 million to $56.1 million in sales in 2019. There were 155 operations with annual bedding and garden plant sales, down 14.8% from 2014. Wholesale sales composed 60.1% of all annual and bedding garden sales, while the remainder were retail sales. Cut Christmas trees and nursery stock showed strong growth, with sales increasing 116.2% and 11.4%, respectively. Combination planter/color bowl sales had a decrease in total sales from 2014, down $4.34 million to $2.62 million in sales in 2019.

Minnesota’s horticulture operations sold more than 3.54 million potted herbaceous perennials in 2019. Potted herbaceous perennials sales generated over $18.5 million in revenue.

Food crops grown under protection increased in terms of the number of operations engaged in this practice, but experienced an overall decrease in revenues. The total number of operations engaged in this practice increased 58.8% to 81 operations. Total sales from food crops grown under protection decreased 8.1% to $17.3 million in 2019. Tomatoes top crops grown under protection, with $15.0 million in sales and 80,681 cwt. produced.

The Census of Horticultural Specialties provides detailed, comprehensive production and economic data on the horticulture industry. It provides information on the number and types of establishments engaged in horticultural production, value of sales, varieties of products, production expenses and more. All operations that reported producing and selling $10,000 or more of horticultural crops on the 2017 Census of Agriculture were included in this special study.

To Minnesota Horticulture Producers: This report contains a brief summary of the data collected from the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties. We appreciate your assistance in providing timely and accurate data on this growing industry. Thank you for your support.