
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE CSREES Stakeholder Priorities

Horticultural crops include hundreds of species valued for food, ornamental and landscape applications, and leisure and sports fields. Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005 stress as never before the importance of vegetables and fruits with the recommendation that the daily adult diet include 2 1/2 and 2 cups, respectively. Furthermore, a variety of these foods should be included in the weekly diet. The importance of ornamentals in our daily well being is well documented. Horticultural producers are generally small in size compared to major agricultural producers. Accordingly, rural economies are enhanced by producers of high value horticultural crops.

Horticultural Research Priorities

- Develop improved ornamental, fruit, and vegetable plants with tolerance to biotic and abiotic stress.
- Produce vegetables and fruits with enhanced nutritional quality by genetic and cultural manipulation.
- Determine Best Management Practices for sustainable production of horticultural crops.
- Develop horticultural production systems less dependant on nonrenewable resources.
- Develop and improve computer-assisted horticultural production systems.
- Enhance the efficiency of controlled-environment horticultural production.
- Conduct research to enhance organic produce production by development of production and pest management strategies.
- Create novel, value added consumer-ready horticultural products.
- Restrict post-harvest losses of horticultural products by improved harvesting, grading, packing, shipping, and temperature management practices.
- Develop appropriate on-farm, packinghouse, transit, and retail outlet food safety standards that ensure that vegetable and fruit supplies are free of pesticides and pathogens. The standards must include product traceability.
- Develop marketing opportunities for horticultural producers to meet consumer needs.