



Horticulture Industry in Oneida County

The horticulture industry in Oneida County is very diverse. There is a significant greenhouse and bedding plant industry that serves the immediate area as well as wholesaling in the Northeast. Light levels are very good in the Mohawk Valley compared to many other parts of New York.

The once significant nursery industry has changed over from production to sales and service as landscape contractors and turf maintenance. The area has excellent soils for production, but most operations have found it difficult to compete price-wise with the nursery stock coming from the south and west.

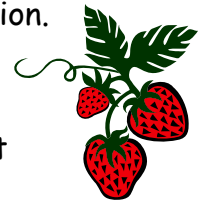


The vegetable industry has also undergone major changes in twenty years switching from primarily processing crops to fresh market. As with nursery production, the availability of fertile, well-drained soils is an advantage for the area. Snap beans, peas, potatoes and cabbage are still significant crops. Many growers have increased their acreage of sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers to supply chain stores and roadside markets. There are several farmers markets in the area that operate generally from June to October.

Most have seasonal signups rather than weekly.

The fruit industry has a small apple component with a retail direction.

The majority of the dollar production is in berries, especially strawberries. Most of this supplies farm stands and pick your own. Soils and the availability of irrigation water are significant pluses for this industry.



Most farms include fairly large acreages of woodlot. The forest industry is now primarily northern hardwoods. Cherry, Maple, Oak and Ash are the major species, with stumpage prices between \$800 and \$2,500 per thousand board feet, with veneer logs bringing more. Soft wood markets are currently low because of change in the chip and paper industry.

