



# Nurseries in Germany

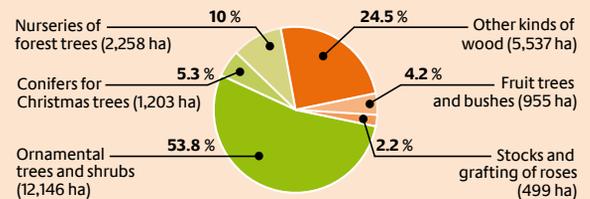
A high-performing industry  
with great export potential



## Cultivation

Nurseries constitute an important industry in German horticulture. Businesses realize a yearly output of about 1.1 billion Euros. This makes up nearly 20 % of the output realized for the total production of horticulture and fruit cultivation (5.6 billion Euros). In 2008 over 22,500 hectares were used as nursery area in Germany to cultivate high-quality plants. Thus, about 10 % of the area in horticulture is cultivated by nurseries.

### Nursery area broken down into forms of use in 2008



Source: Federal Office of Statistics, BLE

In 3,035 nurseries, various kinds of leaf-bearing wood and conifers are bred and raised. These include avenue and park trees, flowering and fruit trees and bushes, ornamental shrubs, ground covers, roses, as well as hedgerow and climbing plants. A very pleasant feature of nursery products is their wide range of shapes and colours, which make these products attractive in every season. Whether green or multi-coloured, plants are essential for human well-being. The largest growing areas in Germany can be found in the north of Germany, in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, followed by North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Brandenburg.

Masters, technicians and engineers direct production within their companies, they engage in plant breeding or in developing new products. Federal state laboratories facilitate the quick transfer of knowledge. An effective network of universities and research institutions provides education for young scientists and does research towards innovations in horticulture.

### Ornamental trees and shrubs for streets, parks, gardens, as well as countryside wood in 2008

	Businesses*	in ha
Creepers and climbing plants	468	44
Ground covers (leaf-bearing wood and conifers)	879	354
Woody plants cut in shape (leaf-bearing wood and conifers)	625	390
Rhododendron and other ericaceous plants	735	635
Other conifers incl. hedges	1,634	2,993
Avenue trees, streetside trees for parks, solitary plants	1,097	3,772
Other ornamental shrubs and woody plants	1,872	3,958

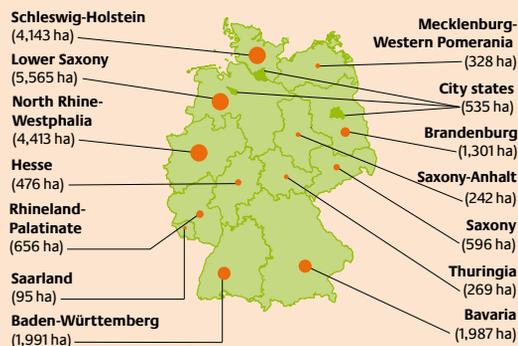
\*Multiple entries of businesses possible

Sources: Federal Office of Statistics, BLE

## Structure

Most nurseries are still run in the form of family enterprises, which can partly look back on a very long tradition. The cultivation of trees and shrubs needs a lot of time, experience and expertise. Over 1,400 young people are trained as gardeners in nurseries. In the German enterprises, one can also rely on the know-how

### Nursery areas in Germany in 2008



\* Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, BLE

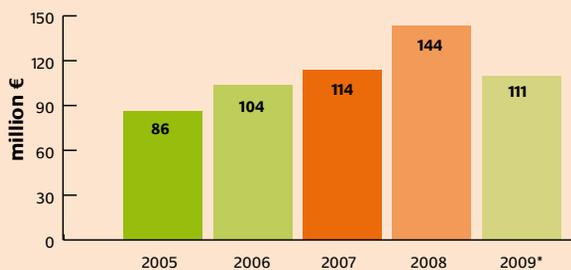
of specialized horticulturists, horticultural technicians and horticultural engineers who make their contribution for nurseries to remain high-performing. This is also achieved through the machines and devices used and through the good methods of growing and cultivation that are state-of-the-art. In German nurseries technical and subject-related innovations are brought into use. They not only serve to increase productivity, but also to protect nature and the environment. So, for example, closed irrigation systems or equipment for mechanical weed control is used. The continual improvement of shipping techniques and materials ensures that woody plants will arrive at their destination without damage or loss of quality.



## Plant health and plant quality

Plant health plays an important part in the import and export of plants. To guarantee that EU plant health and quality standards are met, nurseries are registered by the official plant protection service and their stands are regularly controlled. They are obliged to perform internal controls of plants and reproductive material, these controls being centred on quality, health and variety identity. In addition, for pome fruit and stone fruit in Germany, there is an official certification system for particularly high-grade plant material that has been tested for viruses and checked with regard to varieties. When transporting plants and plant products within the EU, the plant passport confirms that the goods are free from quarantine organisms and that quality requirements are fulfilled. For export into non-EU states the official service for plant protection issues a plant health certificate if the import provisions on plant health of the importing country are complied with. Through close cooperation of the official services for plant protection and nurseries, plant health requirements of each plant variety are taken into account from the beginning of cultivation.

**Export of nursery products from Germany between 2005 and 2009\***



\* provisional

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, BMELV, BLE

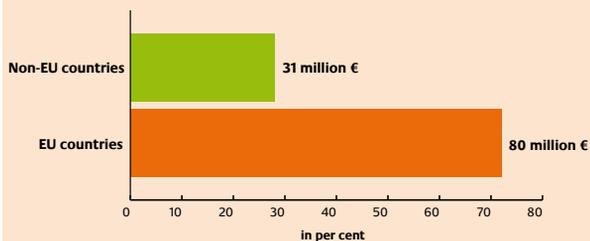


Moreover nurseries make further efforts to protect health and the identity of varieties, these efforts being laid down in the examination criteria of the German quality nurseries. Bodies of rules drawn up using scientific methods serve to define and assure the quality of nursery plants. The growing of woody plants in German climate allows the planting of woody plants cultivated in Germany throughout Europe as these are sufficiently hardened and ripened so as to develop successfully at the final location.

## Export

Nurseries do not only produce for the national market but also for exports which have risen significantly in recent years. According to provisional data of the Federal Office of Statistics in 2009, live plants and floricultural products worth almost 532 million Euros were exported, with exports of nursery products making up 111 million Euros, i.e. ca. 21% of total exports in the sector of live plants and floricultural products. The production of high-quality plants is an important factor for success. Among the most important buyers are the Alpine countries, France, Scandinavia, the Benelux, Poland, the Czech Republic and Russia but also countries as far away as the USA, China and states in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. Avenue trees from Germany can be found on the Champs-Élysées in

## Export of nursery products into EU countries and Non-EU countries in 2009\*



\*provisional

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, BMELV, BLE

Paris, on the Boulevard Kirchberg in Luxemburg, the Zwetnoj Bulvar in Moskau and in the City of London. Also, German nursery products decorate castles and country estates such as the Park at Versailles near Paris.

The German Nursery Federation [Bund Deutscher Baumschulen (BdB)] will be glad to provide further details on references, assortments, uses and business contacts.



### German nurseries contact address

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### Situation

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