HORTICULTURE

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Horticulture is a branch of plant agriculture that deals with garden crops, generally fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. The word is derived from two Latin words hortus, “garden,” and colere, “to cultivate.” It covers all forms of garden management, but it refers to intensive commercial production. Horticulture falls between domestic gardening and field agriculture in terms of scale.

Horticultures are divided into two; 1) cultivation of plants for food, pomology and olericulture; and 2) plants for ornament, floriculture and landscape horticulture. Pomology deals with the fruit and nut crops. Olericulture deals with herbaceous plants for cooking for example, carrots, asparagus, lettuce, cauliflower, tomatoes, and peas. Floricultures deal with production of flower and ornamental plants (cut flowers, pot plants, and greenery). Landscape horticultures are broad category includes plants for landscaping, that include lawn turf in particular nursery crops such as shrubs, trees, and vines.

The specialization of the horticulturist and the success of the crop is influenced by different factors like climate, terrain, and other regional variations.

Propagation is the most basic of horticultural practices. Its 2 objectives are to achieve an increase in numbers and to preserve the essential characteristics of the plant. Propagation can achieved through 1. sexually by seed, 2. asexually by utilizing specialized vegetative structures of the plant 3. techniques like cutting, layering, grafting, and tissue culture.
Many plants produce specialized vegetative structures that used in propagation. Storage organs like tubers enable the plant to survive adverse conditions; organs adapted for natural propagation; runners or rhizomes, that plants may rapidly spread.

References: