

Significance of Horticulture

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Horticulture is branch of agriculture which deals with cultivation of vegetables (**olericulture**) , fruits (**pomology**) and different flowers (**floriculture**) . **Landscape gardening** is an aesthetic branch of horticulture which is defined as the beautification of attract of land by planting different ornamental plants (shrubs or trees).

Olericulture and pomology is gaining a lot of importance these days as it is a solution to mono cropping and soil run off. In india different fruit especially citrus fruit trees are grown on larger scale. India is a largest producer of kinnow among all citrus plants. Other citrus fruits which are grown India are malta (*Citrus sinensis*) , mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*), grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*), lemon (*Citrus limon*) ,lime (*Citrus auratifolia*), rough lemon etc. Musambi , Blood red are the varieties of malta which are grown in large amounts India .Citrus fruit trees especially kinnow requires minimum chilling hours to bear fruits, this condition is easily fulfilled in different parts of Punjab provides required micro climatic conditions for growth and development of fruit trees

In cultivation of vegetables, there are different vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumber, peas which are grown in greenhouses. Naveen, NS – 1237, Pusa divya, Lakshmi etc are some of cultivars of tomato which are grown in green houses . Japanese long green , pusa snajog, priya etc are varieties of cucumber which are grown in green houses. This technique is extremely profitable as these vegetables are made available all around the year. Varieties to be grown in greenhouse needs to be dwarf semi-vigorous, with shallow and less-spreading roots. Micro climatic conditions are artificially adjusted to meet requirement for proper growth and development.

Emerging areas of horticulture are Gurdaspur, Amritsar zones which provides maximum chilling hours for different temperate fruit trees. Vegetables are profitable in zone of Moga, Bathinda, Muktsar in Punjab. Different flowers could be grown in areas such as Ludhiana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh regions could be the emerging areas of horticulture.

In order for promoting sustainable agriculture in India, crop rotation is of utmost importance which checks monoculture, maintains soil fertility, organic content. This type of farming going to benefit farmers of India to great extent. As Indian farmers are low marginal who possess little land holdings. Therefore to increase production per capita, horticulture is going to play indispensable role. Government needs to come forward and promote subsidies on horticulture farming.