Rhode Island’s Green Industry

Rhode Island’s Green Industry cluster employed over 4,000 workers in 2003 and paid over $100 million in wages. Employment in the Green Industry has grown steadily over the last ten years increasing from 2,613 in 1994 to 4,140 in 2003, an increase of 1,527 (58.4%) workers. In 2003 the average annual wage paid to workers in the Green Industry was $24,173.

Landscaping Services (2,166) and Golf Courses & Country Clubs (1,423) accounted for a substantial part of the employment (86.6%) in the Green Industry cluster. Other industries in the cluster include Floriculture Production, Florists, Landscape Architectural Services, Nurseries, Garden Centers & Farm Supply Stores and Nursery Production.

Occupations commonly found in Rhode Island’s Green Industry cluster include Agricultural Inspectors, Environmental Engineers, Environmental Engineering Technicians, Farmworkers, Crop, Nursery & Greenhouse Laborers, Floral Designers, Landscape Architects, Landscaping & Grounds Keeping Workers, Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers & Applicators and Tree Trimmers & Pruners. Average wages for these occupations range from $9.53 per hour for Agricultural Inspectors to $25.16 per hour for Environmental Engineers.
## Industries

**Floriculture Production**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in growing and/or producing floriculture products (e.g., cut flowers, cut cultivated greens, potted plants, and flower seeds). Floriculture Production employed 39 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $13,913.

**Florists**
This industry comprises establishments known as florists primarily engaged in retailing cut flowers, floral arrangements, and potted plants purchased from others. Florists employed 534 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $14,364.

**Golf Courses and Country Clubs**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in operating golf courses (except miniature) and country clubs (golf courses with dining and other recreational facilities). Golf Courses and Country Clubs employed 1,423 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $19,061.

**Landscape Architectural Services**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in planning and designing the development of land areas for projects, such as recreational areas; airports; highways; hospitals; schools; land subdivisions; and commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Landscape Architectural Services employed 48 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $36,455.

**Landscaping Services**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing landscape care and maintenance services and/or installing trees, shrubs, plants, lawns, or gardens; and establishments primarily engaged in providing these services along with the design of landscape plans and/or the construction of walkways, retaining walls, decks, fences, ponds, and similar structures. Landscaping Services employed 2,166 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $24,086.

**Nurseries, Garden Centers, and Farm Supply Stores**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in retailing nursery and garden products, such as trees, shrubs, plants, seeds, bulbs, and sod, that are predominantly grown elsewhere. Nurseries, Garden Centers, and Farm Supply Stores employed 187 workers in 2003 at an average wage of $21,086.

**Nursery and Tree Production**
This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in: growing nursery products, nursery stock, shrubbery, bulbs, fruit stock, sod; and/or growing short rotation woody trees with a growth and harvest cycle of 10 years or less. Nursery and Tree Production employed 277 workers in 2003 at an average annual wage of $29,715.

## Occupations

**Agricultural Inspectors:** Inspect agricultural commodities, processing equipment, and facilities, and fish and logging operations, to ensure compliance with regulations and laws governing health, quality, and safety. Illustrative Examples: Grain Sampler. **Median Hourly Wage:** $9.53

**Environmental Engineers:** Design, plan, or perform engineering duties in the prevention, control, and remediation of environmental health hazards utilizing various engineering disciplines. Work may include waste treatment, site remediation, or pollution control technology. Illustrative Examples: Soil Engineer; Industrial Hygiene Engineer; Pollution Control Engineer. **Median Hourly Wage:** $30.58

**Environmental Engineering Technicians:** Apply theory and principles of environmental engineering to modify, test, and operate equipment and devices used in the prevention, control, and remediation of environmental pollution, including waste treatment and site remediation. May assist in the development of environmental pollution remediation devices under direction of engineer. Illustrative Examples: Air Analysis Technician; Soil Technician. **Median Hourly Wage:** $20.16

**Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse:** Manually plant, cultivate, and harvest vegetables, fruits, nuts, horticultural specialties, and field crops. Use hand tools, such as shovels, trowels, hoes, tampers, pruning hooks, shears, and knives. Duties may include tilling soil and applying fertilizers; transplanting, weeding, thinning, or pruning crops; applying pesticides; cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and loading harvested products. May construct trellises, repair fences and farm buildings, or participate in irrigation activities. Illustrative Examples: Apple Picker; Nursery Worker; Vegetable Loader. **Median Hourly Wage:** $9.46

**Floral Designers:** (Florist) Design, cut, and arrange live, dried, or artificial flowers and foliage. Illustrative Example: Corsage Maker. **Median Hourly Wage:** $10.18

**Landscape Architects:** Plan and design land areas for such projects as parks and other recreational facilities, airports, highways, hospitals, schools, land subdivisions, and commercial, industrial, and residential sites. Illustrative Examples: Environmental Planner; Land Planner; Landscape Designer. **Median Hourly Wage:** $25.80

**Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers:** Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include: sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, and sprinkler installation. Illustrative Examples: Landscape Gardener., Greenskeeper, Sprinkler Installer. **Median Hourly Wage:** $10.24