

# Program Review

## Executive Summary

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### Horticulture

Majors Reviewed:

- *Landscape Horticulture Technology: Landscape Emphasis (LE), A.A.S*
- *Landscape Horticulture Technology: Plant Production Emphasis (LP), A.A.S*

*Revised Major as of Fall 2021:*

- *Landscape/Plant Production Technology (LT), A.A.S*

July 2021



**Pennsylvania**  
**College of Technology**  
A Penn State Affiliate

The Penn College Horticulture department made a major program revision for Fall 2021 to combine the two previous degrees into one new degree which is called Landscape/Plant Production Technology. The revision was made to enhance the career path opportunities for those who seek a landscape or growing/production career focus. The faculty wanted to offer the best skillsets from both the Landscape emphasis and Plant Production emphasis to ensure graduates have abilities desired by industry employers. By revising, combining, and implementing new courses, faculty believe this program will provide graduates with a curriculum that enhances the traditional landscaping and plant production career choices and creates several specialized career pathways.

The revised program includes three new courses that focus on Emerging Trends, Advanced Plant Production Hemp and Hydro, and Horticulture Operations and Strategies. Nine courses from the previous majors have been revised into seven courses, reducing the degree completion credits to 63 credits. Three 15 credit semesters open opportunities for students to complete remedial coursework and still stay on a two year degree completion pathway. The program also added the ability to take Business Mathematics since many students want to start a small business after graduation. The third and fourth semesters offer a few course options specific to landscaping or plant production.

Covid-19 and a national "Skills Gap" have heightened the need for Landscapers and Growers. Students are heavily recruited into industry related careers where they can continue to build skills after graduation. The variety and niche markets of this program also provide pathways towards graduates building their own Landscape businesses or work in emerging fields such as the Industrial Hemp or Medical Marijuana industries. Some of our graduates choose to continue on at Penn College to earn a bachelors degree in Applied Business Management.

The program is fortunate to have its own arboretum, over 180 acres and three greenhouses from which to provide instruction. Off campus student projects, field trips and industry support are common within the program. The biggest threat to our program is a lack of awareness on the type of professions available in this industry. Misconceptions exist about the entry level low paying manual labor within the industry. However, our graduates receive an education that prepares them to move into supervisory, leadership, design positions as well as business ownership. Our goal is to prepare our graduates as the next leaders of landscape and plant production industry.