

Greenhouse Grower

Run a crop under glass. You control the light, the heat, the water and the bugs, and the plants tell you every day whether you got it right.

TYPICAL PAY

\$89,900

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$54k to \$160k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Glass and plastic greenhouses, propagation rooms, nurseries, pac...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Biology and chemistry. If your school has an agriculture program or an FFA (National FFA Organization) chapter, join it. A summer job at a greenhouse or garden center counts for more than you think.
- 2 Horticulture program** 2 to 4 years
 A two-year associate degree at a community college, or a four-year degree at a land-grant university. Look for courses in greenhouse production, plant pathology and soils.
- 3 Grow through a full year** 1 season
 Every crop has a calendar. You do not understand poinsettias until you have grown them from July cuttings to December sale.
- 4 Assistant grower** 2 to 4 years
 You run a section under someone else's eye: irrigation, feed rates, scouting for insects, keeping records.
- 5 Grower or head grower** Ongoing
 The crop is yours. You set the schedule, call the temperatures, sign off on shipping, and answer for anything that dies.

Pros and cons

- + You get an answer every single day: the crop is either right or it is not
- + Real science applied to something you can hold
- + Warm inside in January, which beats most outdoor work
- Spring is a wall of work and you cannot take time off during it
- A heater failing overnight can kill a whole crop and it is your name on it
- Crew jobs start near minimum wage and the climb takes years

Optional boosts

Pesticide applicator license. Biological control. Hydroponics and controlled environment growing. Propagation.

Good to know

The calendar runs backwards

Poinsettias sold in December are stuck as cuttings in July. Spring bedding plants are seeded in the middle of winter. A grower spends most of the year working on a holiday that has not happened yet, an...

It is a \$520 billion industry

AmericanHort, the national horticulture association, puts the green industry's annual contribution to the United States economy at about \$520 billion and roughly 2.9 million full- and part-time jobs. Most pe...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers (11-9013.00)
 AmericanHort, the national horticulture industry association
 Purdue University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
 Farmers.gov: help for beginning farmers and ranchers

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/greenhouse-grower>



Scan for the full clicker