



Abstract 25090: Certified Horticulture (ASHS-CH) is widely accepted for minimum standards for experiential horticulturists. The current program focuses on outdoor production, lacking controlled environmental agriculture (CE) and / or greenhouse management issues. CEA and greenhouse production is on the increase due to legislation surrounding medicinal and recreational *Cannabis sativa* (L.) production. ASHS-CH-CEA or CH-GH could become indoor standard horticulture practice. Managers would benefit by knowledgeable staff that may move to emerging production states. The current program should be retained but perhaps renamed ASHS-CH-L.

Objectives:

The purpose of this presentation is to explore an extension of the ASHS CH program to encompass controlled environment horticulture (CE) including greenhouse management and at the same, provide a certification solution that could also benefit the cannabis industry.

Level of effort:

Greenhouse management is a well known skill in mainstream horticulture yet the ASHA CH exam is focuses mainly on landscaping. Greenhouses generate significant revenue for the green industry and the skills they depend on are unique enough that extending the CH program to embrace greenhouse management would be a boon to current growers.

Many of the current and future topics overlap and would be retained for both exams but additional topics would need to be replacing landscape design issues, plant installation, invasive plant species, horticulture crop production and weed control. Replacements suggested:

- Effects of PAR light and photoperiod
- Indoor structures
- Environmental Control
- Nutrients
- Container growing
- Intensive IPM



Photo: colostate.edu

Desired Outcome:

Greenhouse operators need skilled staff just like the landscape industry. With the current demand for greenhouses and indoor facilities for *Cannabis* is opening an opportunity for ASHS to be the go-to source for CH skills certification.

