



# HOW GREENHOUSES BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

Greenhouses bring so much more than just fresh vegetables to the towns and communities they operate in. While this in of itself is no small feat, as greenhouses greatly reduce the distance from farm to plate for so many delicious commodities, there is much more that is created and contributed than just food.

Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers care about the communities they operate in. Most greenhouses are family-owned, generational farms that have a longstanding relationship with their community. This is evident when you drive through small towns like Leamington where so much of this positive impact can be seen. Local infrastructure and facilities like the Lakeside Marina and Promenade, NatureFresh Farms Recreation Complex, and Pure Flavour Fields are all amazing examples of Ontario greenhouse growers' commitment to their community, supporting youth, healthy living, and championing community leadership.

A thriving community means a thriving business; it is in everyone's interest for the best.

Greenhouses help provide jobs locally and foster the growth of spin-off businesses and industry. On top of the 18,000 jobs (2021) that are provided directly working on the farm (picking, packing, pruning, etc.), there are also many jobs created in adjacent industries that wouldn't be here without the success of greenhouse agriculture. Things like transportation, construction, technology and automation, and packaging are all thriving nearby with a large part of their success due to the business that greenhouse provides.

Other than jobs, greenhouse agriculture has led to the expansion of so much infrastructure locally! Everything from expansion of highways and roads, water treatment and delivery, and even things like internet access and electricity have received considerable government

investment locally because of the thriving industry here.

Greenhouses care about their staff. Many of the highest-up staff in the greenhouse sector started working in a labour or generalist position. There is so much upwards potential in greenhouse and room to further your career.

Greenhouses grow healthy communities.



THE ADVENTURES OF

## Lady Bug

-DAYS-  
**365**  
-YEAR-

CALENDAR

MAP OF ONTARIO CANADA

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers harvest tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers 365 days a year!

If some product can't be sold, our farms find ways to connect with various charitable organizations that rescue food and distribute it to food banks all across Ontario, millions of pounds of produce from our farms each year make it to those in need, helping everyone have access to fresh nutritious vegetables.

## About OGVG



Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) works hard to promote and connect its 220 growers with allied stakeholders, government agencies, and value-chain partners across North America through various events, initiatives, and community activities. OGVG supports the Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector and its growers in many capacities to ensure success for today, sustainability for tomorrow, and fresh, nutritious, quality produce for all!

OGVG is a not-for-profit, member-based organization with a dynamic team located right in Leamington. OGVG staff offers many services to members including research, marketing, trade access, labour support, and assistance for anything grower-related. The staff at OGVG work with members to ensure they adhere to food safety programs, adapt to market changes, and implement new technologies and processes to keep our growers be competitive on the world stage. The science team works continuously with researchers on projects to maintain growers' position as leaders in greenhouse innovation. The marketing team works to educate consumers, retailers, and distributors across North America of the year-round availability and high quality of greenhouse produce grown in Leamington and how to incorporate tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers into family meals that are both nutritious and full of flavor.



## Commodity Spotlight Eggplant

### Did you know...

Eggplants are another vegetable that can be grown in greenhouse farms. Although Ontario's greenhouse vegetable growers are well known for their tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers, many grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. In the future expect to see even more local vegetables available all throughout the year thanks to innovations in Ontario's greenhouse farms!

