Alabama’s green industry, which includes nursery, greenhouse, turfgrass, sod, lawn and landscaping operations, contributes almost $2.9 billion annually to Alabama’s economy.

The industry provides jobs for more than 43,000 Alabamians.

Alabama ranks third in the U.S. in sod production, with approximately 18,000 acres of sod.

In 2010, greenhouse, nursery and sod sales in Alabama were over $238 million and accounted for 5.1 percent of all agricultural commodity sales.

The greenhouse, nursery and floriculture industry is Alabama’s fourth-largest agriculture sector.

The primary grass variety in Alabama is Bermudagrass, while bahiagrass, Bluegrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustine, ryegrass, tall fescue and zoysiagrass are also common.

Turfgrass sod helps control pollution, trapping an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released annually into the U.S. atmosphere.

Sod increases a home’s property value by 15 to 20 percent.

Popular landscaping plants in Alabama include roses, hydrangeas, azaleas, crepe myrtles and hibiscus.

The number of greenhouse-grown vegetable acres in the world increased by 14 percent from 2015 to 2016.

Benefits of greenhouse-growing include year-round availability, product consistency, shorter time from plant to store, and reduced emissions and fuel costs for transportation.

The U.S. green industry generates more than 2 million jobs and $196 billion in annual revenue.

Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations account for 2.5 percent of all U.S. farms and employ 4.9 percent of hired farm workers.

Sources:
ACES.edu
Lawnglass.com
North Carolina Sod Producers Association
UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
USDA.gov