



\$130,000 Endowment Established at Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center

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An endowment has been established at Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (LIHREC) in Riverhead, called the "Founder's Fund." This endowment was established by five Long Island greenhouse businesses and is worth approximately \$130,000. The interest that is generated by the fund supports the research and extension programs at the Center.

An endowment, also called an endowed fund, is a restricted account that is managed by Cornell University. The principle from this endowment is reserved and protected in perpetuity to allow the account to grow. Only the interest from this endowment can be used, and it will be used exclusively for LIHREC.

The Founder's Fund was established through the generosity of five Long Island greenhouse businesses: Ivy Acres (now called Coastal) Greenhouses, Van de Wetering Greenhouse, Kurt Weiss Greenhouses, Otto Keil Greenhouses, and C.J. Van Bourgondien Greenhouses.

Suffolk County, where LIHREC is located, is a major agricultural producer with a strong greenhouse and nursery industry as well a diversity of other horticultural crops. Plant agriculture has always been strong on eastern Long Island and is one of the reasons that LIHREC will celebrate its 100th anniversary in two years. There are approximately 2,500 acres of wine grapes grown, more than 100 different vegetables produced, and more breweries than in any other county in New York.

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has maintained the Long Island research and extension center in one of New York's main agriculture regions to help the green industry and other horticultural enterprises prosper. LIHREC has scientists and professionals working on many horticultural commodities, as well as cross-commodity specialists in plant pathology, entomology, weed science, and plant tissue culture/micropropagation, and is uniquely positioned to support the flourishing horticultural industry in the state. LIHREC's greenhouses and farm operations, managed by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, position the center and its scientists to address the unique challenges and opportunities of Long Island agriculture.

This endowment is only the second ever to be established for the exclusive benefit of LIHREC. Last year, retired nurseryman, Ray Bell, established the first-ever endowment for the center. These two endowments offer LIHREC a tremendous advantage for its continued success in the future. With the establishment of the new Founder's Fund, LIHREC can now receive donations to support the research and extension programs. Please contact Mark Bridgen for more information.