

## Environment, from nursery gardening to climate and economy: the future is green



Encouraging numbers for Italian nursery gardening: the value of production in 2022 has exceeded the 3.1 billion euros (over 300 million more than in 2021 – 2.78 billion), of which 1462 million euros for flowers and potted plants (almost 1.3 billion in 2021) and 1678 million for nurseries (1.5 billion in 2021 ). **It is the highest figure of the last few years examined.** Italy, therefore, bucking the trend on EU27 productions (**flower nursery -3.9%**).

To disseminate and comment on the first official previews (year 2022, source Istat) of Italian horticultural production, **Myplant & Garden** the most important international fair of professional greenery (nursery, garden, landscaping),

**“Horticulture is an industry** able to contribute favorably to climatic and environmental problems, from forestation to the economic, health and aesthetic benefits that derive from it – commented the organizers.

We are witnessing a surge in sensitivity and attention to green: from politics to the construction system, from the enhancement of open spaces to the themes of urban regeneration, to the reforestation of cities, passing through the awareness of what plants can do to combat changes climatic conditions and promote the healthiness of indoor environments: schools, hospitals, offices, homes can reduce CO2 by 20% with the presence of plants (CNR data).

In general, more green means less **Atmospheric PMs** (from 7 to 24% less – one hectare of urban forest is able to remove an average of 17 kg/year of PM10, equal to an economic benefit of 1,825 euros), less hot (from 2 to 8°C less), less health care costs, more energy savings, greater real estate value. Every euro invested in public parks is revalued up to 4 euro.

**73 billion euros – equal to 240,000 euros / km<sup>2</sup> – in the last 40 years (until 2021) it is the economic loss suffered by Italy (as noted by the EEA – European Environmental Agency) due to extreme atmospheric events (meteorological and hydrological) that correct land management could have drastically reduced . The same Agency estimated that in 2019 air pollution in the Old Continent caused over 300,000 premature deaths due to exposure to fine particulate matter; 60,000 premature deaths in Italy.**