

# NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 02/06/2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Skagit Horticulture Opens Clean-stock Greenhouse; Announces New Leadership for Specialty Ag Division

Skagit Horticulture, located in Mabton, WA, announces the opening of a new, clean-stock greenhouse to complement the large-scale production of select agricultural plant starts launched last year.

The new greenhouse is key in producing high volumes of virus-free transplants to serve the needs of hop growers, vineyard operators and orchardists. Using a small group of stock obtained from the National Clean Plant Network, the company produces tissue culture to create a foundation stock block that will be used for softwood cuttings. This mother block will be isolated into the clean-stock greenhouse where restricted access and strict sanitation practices are part of the company's rigorous production protocols. Insect screening ensures no pest pressure in the greenhouse, which reduces need for chemical applications, as well as eliminating virus vectors.

The company also announces that Debbie Thorne has been promoted to the position of Agriculture Department Manager. Debbie will now oversee all aspects of the Specialty Ag division, including sales of hops, wine grapes, berries and tree fruits.

Debbie has been an integral part of the Skagit Horticulture company for many years, working first for Skagit Gardens for over 25 years before accepting a position with Northwest Horticulture in 2014. With the merger of the two companies, Debbie becomes one of the company's most seasoned employees, holding positions in management, production, new product development, marketing and sales.



Debbie Thorne celebrates the opening of the clean-stock greenhouse with President and CEO, Scott Crownover

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