

SERRES LAVOIE

Laval, Quebec

Distance from Concordia: 24 km

Serres Lavoie is Quebec's oldest glass greenhouse, founded in 1944 by Dutch immigrants, Paul-Eugène Lavoie and his wife Antoinette Locas. By the end of the 1950s, Serres Lavoie had become the province's largest flower producer. Paul-Eugène and Antoinette's son, Jean-Claude, took over the business in 1987 and expanded the greenhouse's work to include more plant varieties, including peppers. Today, Serres Lavoie is run by Jean-Claude's son, Mario Lavoie, and his wife Sophie Éthier. Sophie is a trained biologist and has worked for the greenhouse since she was 16 years old. Her passion for plants and extensive horticultural knowledge have allowed Serres Lavoie to innovate and expand to keep up with the growing demand for house plants.



Sophie Éthier and Mario Lavoie

AU JARDIN NOIR

Ange-Gardien, Quebec

Distance from Concordia: 68 km

In 1970, brothers Marc and Luc Messier purchased land in the Montérégie region. This land was part maple grove, part woodland, and part pasture. The property mostly comprised of black soil, giving rise to Au Jardin Noir's name. Their first crop production included radishes, tomatoes, carrots and potatoes, to which were added lettuce and beets soon after. As the farm grew, Marc's wife, Marie-Paule, began helping manage the business as well. By 1987, the farm had doubled in size and was producing a large variety of fruits and vegetables. Au Jardin Noir remains a family run business, with Marc and Marie-Paule's son Eric managing the farm's crop production of more than 30 different fruits and vegetables.



Marie-Paule Messier