

Growing Pains: The Relationships Between Commercial Rooftop Greenhouses and Small-Scale Organic Farms in Montreal, Quebec

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In the past decade, the discourse of urban sustainability has created a climate ripe for innovation in urban agriculture; commercial-scale rooftop greenhouses are an example of such innovation. Commercial rooftop greenhouses have allowed for year-long production of food in cold climates, without requiring any additional land for production. Presently, there are only a handful of commercial rooftop farming operations in North America, but they are quickly attracting media attention and financial investment. Despite the benefits of local food production, very little research has been conducted on the potential social, economic and environmental trade-offs of commercial rooftop greenhouses. In this thesis, I investigate the relationships between commercial rooftop greenhouses and small-scale organic farms in Montreal, Quebec. Using data from interviews with organic farmers, I argue that commercial rooftop farms are causing disruptions to previously established food production and distribution networks in Montreal.



Photo of one of Lufa Farms' rooftop greenhouses (Source: Lufa Farms, Creative Commons: Non-Commercial)