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**MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE  
GROWERS COUNCIL**

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## *For Immediate Release*

### **MFGC PROMOTES PEST RISK ANALYSIS**

The Michigan Floriculture Growers Council (MFGC) has partnered with Michigan State University (MSU) faculty, the MSU Product Center, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to conduct a situation analysis that will explore the potential risks associated with quarantine pests and diseases in the floriculture industry. The project, led by MFGC board member Erik Runkle, was recently selected for funding from Project GREEN, Michigan's plant-based agriculture initiative at MSU.

The \$30,000 grant from Project GREEN was leveraged by funding from the Western Michigan Greenhouse Association and the Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association. Although Erik will oversee the project, the analysis will primarily be performed by Getachew Abate from the MSU Product Center. During the development of the analysis, ample input will be solicited from industry leaders, researchers in different plant science disciplines, and state and national regulators. Gale Arent (MFGC), Ray Hammerschmidt (MSU Dept. of Plant Pathology), and Ken Rauscher (MDA Plant Industry Division) are also team members of this project.

This analysis will assist the floriculture industry, particularly young plant growers, in establishing a systematic approach for understanding and exploring the risks associated with pests, within the Michigan context. The study will be completed in early 2009 and will be widely disseminated to the floriculture industry in Michigan and beyond. In the long term, the aim of this project is to help the industry develop tailored procedures for supply chain participants to meet specific arrangements and requirements to manage and mitigate pest risks in floriculture.

MFGC is the Michigan floriculture advocacy organization founded in 2006. Members receive a monthly e-newsletter updating them on these policy issues. Further information and a membership application can be found at [www.mifgc.org](http://www.mifgc.org).

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