



MFGGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

In This Issue

Growing MI Ag Conference 2014

MI Water Usage Reporting

Address Change Reminder

January Board Meeting

Calendar of Events

MFGC Board Meeting
Thursday June 12th, 2014
8:30am GreenStone FCS

2014 Board of Directors:

Donny Marvaso - President
 Bill Tuinier - Vice-President
 Dick Derks - Secretary/Treasurer
 Andy Buist
 Paul Karlovich
 Ken Tuinier
 Dennis Crum
 Erik Runkle - Educator
 Appointee
 Carter Kent - Allied Trade
 Appointee
 Mike Faber - Allied Trade
 Appointee
 Mark Watkins- MDFGA
 Appointee
 Scott Stiles - WMGA Appointee

Policy Chair - Bill Tuinier
 Membership Chair - Ken Tuinier

Dear Member,

I would like to thank Dennis Crum and Tom Smith with Four Star Greenhouse for hosting our February Member Meeting and Legislative Tour. This was a fantastic opportunity to invite members and legislators to tour the facility and interact with great discussion. The discussion was educational for legislators and members. We learned much about the legislative process and how we might request legislation for our industry and the legislators learned many things about the greenhouse/floriculture industry. We are thankful for Representative LaVoy and Senator Hopgood for their time and listening to our thoughts and concerns on the industry.

As a board, we are researching all aspects of neonicotinoids and their impact on bees. We would like to hear from you the members to determine the best next step. Are you hearing from your buyer/customers on this topic? What changes are you making? The board will work to support the industry in the best way possible. Please contact the office with your thoughts, comments, etc. at mail@mifgc.org or call 517-367-2033

Sincerely,

Dominic Marvaso
President

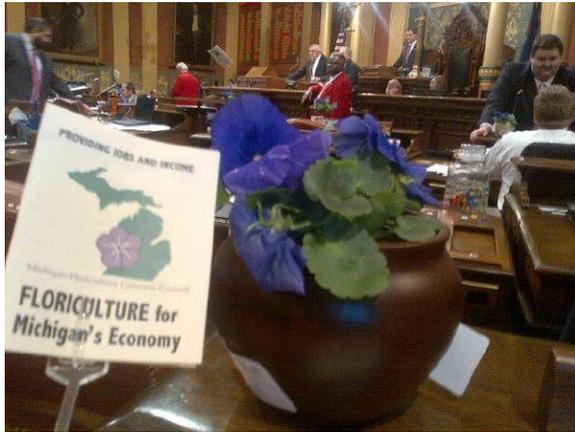
BFG SUPPLY CO. - FOR ALL YOUR RETAIL AND GROWING NEEDS!

Call your BFG sales rep, local warehouse, order online or with the mobile app!

- Contact Your Local Warehouse or Call (800) 883-0234
To expedite the process, please have your Customer Number ready.
- Order Online at www.bfgsupply.com Simply log on and start shopping!
- Order Using the Mobile App Download the VPA Mobile App and simply place your order!



BFG
 FLORICULTURE
 SUPPLY CO.
 14300 Kinsman Road
 Burton, OH 44021
 (800) 883-0234
www.bfgsupply.com



"Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Capital today. Michigan Floriculture Growers Council beautified the House Chamber with purple pansy flowers"

Representative Roger Victory posted on Facebook

Heavy snow loads and low temperatures challenge Michigan greenhouse growers

While harsh winter wreaks havoc on Michigan greenhouses, growers remain optimistic for spring sales.

by [Heidi Wollaeger](#), Michigan State University Extension

The almost record-breaking snowfall and subzero temperatures have been wreaking havoc on Michigan greenhouse businesses and those throughout the Midwest who are currently in the spring production rush. Michigan, the third largest producer of floriculture crops in the United States, has an industry grossing \$400 million in sales in 2012 according to the [USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service](#). The height of spring production season, from January through June, includes some of the coldest months of year. Greenhouse growers are no strangers to Michigan winters, but this winter has been particularly difficult. Challenges faced by greenhouse growers include damaged greenhouse structures from heavy snow loads, high heating bills, increase in labor to remove snow, chilling or freezing damage on vegetative cuttings, and disruptions in production shipping and scheduling.

Numerous greenhouse structures have been damaged as a result of the heavy snow throughout Michigan. [Michigan State University Extension](#) surveyed greenhouse growers throughout the state and 36 producers responded with their experiences from this winter. Of those who responded, 49 percent of greenhouse operations reported having structural damage due to snow load, including more than 14 acres of greenhouses. Some owners avoided heavy snow damage by heating their greenhouses to at least 50 degrees to melt the snow. Their reported increases in heating costs ranged from none to 300 percent. The variation can be contributed to many factors including whether the producers had a contract for a fixed price for natural gas and how much greenhouse owners heated their structures to melt the snow.

While some plants are grown from seed, others are shipped to growers as plugs, liners or unrooted cuttings. Shipping the young plants has been challenging for suppliers as a result of the extremely cold temperatures. Sixty-five percent of growers reported receiving a shipment of cuttings with either chilling injury (sub-lethal damage) or freezing injury. While suppliers have been diligently replacing the losses, they have also been forced to delay shipping product for sometimes extended periods to prevent further losses. The unavoidable delays in the shipments of plant materials have altered production timing of crops. Ornamental plant producers often have tight scheduling and

53 percent of growers who responded reported that their scheduling has been disrupted by the extreme cold.

Despite the many challenges, growers remain optimistic that when spring finally comes, consumers will be excited to buy plants to beautify their gardens and homes. As many people throughout Michigan have grown tired of the relentless winter, there is no question that spring will be especially enjoyable this year.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

SPRING FLING
DISCOUNTS
BONUS BUYS
DELAYED BILLING TERMS

BACCTO[®] **on** **&** **Garden Magic**[®]
"where growing begins." THE NAME SAYS IT ALL™
(as well as - mulch, decorative rock, & play sand)

Contact Jon Konya - 517.230.9974
jkonya@michiganpeat.com

 product of USA  Product of Michigan

Indiana and Michigan Water Use Reporting - Meeting the requirement

Agricultural water users in both Indiana and Michigan with the capacity to pump 70 gallons per minute or more need to report their water use by April 1.

by [Lyndon Kelley](#), Michigan State University Extension

Water use reporting and registration are important parts of water resource management in both Indiana and Michigan. Both States signed onto the Great Lakes Compact in which the federal government acknowledged each Great Lakes State's ability to manage the water resource of the basin, including the ability to deny diversions of water to areas outside the Great Lakes watershed.

Indiana uses the term Significant Water Withdrawal Facility (SWWF), where Michigan refers to these as Large Volume Water Uses (LVWU). In either state these terms apply to water use with the **capacity** to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute). One or more withdrawals at a site having a 100,000 gallons or greater capacity, or combined capacity, per day, also meets the SWWF or LVWU water use definition. Water use reporting is required for all agricultural water uses (irrigation, cooling, animal, watering, etc.) from both surface and ground water withdrawals. The annual report is due by April 1 of the following year and includes monthly water use estimates.

In Michigan Agricultural (LVWU) reports can only be completed online at [Michigan's Water Use Reporting Program](#). An [online tutorial](#) on the use of the new reporting system is also [available](#). Alternate reporting system can only be accepted with the permission from MDARD. If you have no way of using the new online system or have questions about the system contacts Abigail Eaton at eatona@michigan.gov , or 517-284-5612.

Online Water Use Reporting will be very important as the management of water increases, allowing producers to build their database within the reporting system. Both states provided online reporting systems for the first time for the 2012 water use year. In Michigan only your 2012 reports are loaded into the new system making it very important for water users to review their record back to 2004 and load all previously unreported registered water withdrawal facilities into the online system.

Reporting Large Volume Water Use withdrawals established, but not in the system prior to 2006 will not meet the Michigan Registration requirement. In 2008 Large Volume Water users had a one time opportunity to report 2007 or 2008 water use and also meet the States registration requirement. The only current system available to meet the registration requirement for any new or old withdrawals that were not previously registered or reported is to register it as a new water withdrawal through the [Michigan Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool](#).

The required estimated water use can be accomplished by several methods including acre inch record, pump capacity multiplied by run time and flow meter readings. Information on estimating water use for irrigation or livestock, forms, or other large volume water use requirements can be found at the [Michigan State University Extension St. Joseph County page](#) or email Lyndon Kelley, Purdue/MSU Extension irrigation educator, with request for Water Use Reporting and Registration information at kelley@anr.msu.edu .

Follow the [link on irrigation](#) on the right hand side of the screen. Michigan SCD and MEAAP Technicians located at many of the county NRCS offices have been trained to assist producers in completing the Michigan Large Volume Water Use reporting requirement.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



EAST JORDAN PLASTICS, INC.

The Responsible Choice For Horticultural Containers

**“Manufacturer of Quality Horticultural Containers
for Over 60 Years and Committed to
Closed Loop Recycling”**

www.eastjordanplastics.com

Office: 231.536.2243 Fax: 231.536.7090

6400 Hwy M32 PO Box 575 East Jordan, Michigan 49727

Reminder

The MFGC office is now located at: 235 N. Pine St., Lansing, MI 48933

When sending communication, it is important to use the new address. The PO Box has been closed.

March Board Meeting

The MFGC Board of Directors and Committees will meet on Thursday, June 12th, 2014 beginning at 8:30am. These meetings will be held at GreenStone Farm Credit Headquarters in Lansing. Please let the MFGC office know if you plan to attend.