



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

October 2015

MFGC Office
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Calendar of Events

Protecting Pollinators in Ornamental Landscapes Conference

October 12 -14, 2015
Hendersonville, NC

<http://www.ornamentalpollinators.org/>

MFGC

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 8, 2015
4:30 to 6:30 pm

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council
reception and annual meeting
Devos Place, Grand Rapids

2015 Board of Directors

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Bill Tuinier

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Tammy Ruhlig

WMGA Appointee
Scott Stiles

Well, we recently learned the grant application to study the Feasibility of Establishing a Recycling Cooperative Program for Greenhouse Containers Produced, used and Stored in Michigan was denied funding.



The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD), thanked us for submitting a grant proposal for the Strategic Growth Initiative Grant Program.

In total, 52 applications were submitted requesting more than \$6.4 million in grant funding. This well exceeded MDARD's budget allocation for the grant round, so this was a highly competitive round leading to many good projects not being selected for funding.

We can try another time, and since the work involved with writing a proposal is time consuming and tedious, you can be assured that we will try another round.

We have been actively posting on the MFGC Facebook Page, so if you are curious about tours, conferences or fun tidbits, be sure to like the page and follow us.

In this newsletter we have posted the opportunity for you to have direct impact on the direction that MSU Extension might take. They are conducting community meetings and have provided an on-line survey for those interested in adding their two-cents.

The MFGC annual conference is just around the corner, please be sure to sign up early. It's bound to be a wonderful time for all of us. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, enjoy your autumn months, keep a look-out for the mums all over the Great State of Michigan and the clever way our customers encourage decorating around themes of the fall harvest.

Here's to creativity!

Bill Tuinier, President

MFGC

Policy Chair
Ken Tuinier

Membership Chair
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

The Science of Soil Health: Cycle, Re-cycle, Repeat

Watch this [video](#) and learn!

Don't Wait!

\$80,000 in small business energy grants
Your small farm business could be eligible for a renewable energy grant. The next funding cycle for the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) is October 31, 2015. Click [here](#) to learn more.



[Hotel reservation information for the 2015 EXPO is now posted.](#)

Mark your calendar!

Michigan Floriculture Growers Annual Member Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 8, 2015

4:30 to 6:30 pm

Devos Place, Grand Rapids

Upcoming MSU Events

Protecting Pollinators in Ornamental Landscapes Conference

Oct. 12-14 | Hendersonville, NC **Very limited space is available, [so register soon!](#)**

Ontario Bus Tour of Floriculture Greenhouse Insect Biocontrol Programs

Oct. 28 | 7 a.m.-5 p.m. | Pickups in Byron Center and Swartz Creek. [Register now!](#)

See all MSU Extension Floriculture Events [here](#).

Michigan State University AgBioResearch & Extension Partner to Sharpen Their Focus in Meeting Community Needs

Michigan State University Extension is conducting a statewide assessment of their goals. You are encouraged to fill out the on-line survey and provide input that will impact extension efforts in the next five years . . . You can decide what MSUE priorities should be... perhaps creating and enhancing employment in Michigan's agricultural sector; creating and enhancing employment in Michigan's natural resource industry; assisting farmers in agricultural production and profitability; ensuring that the food supply is safe and plentiful; developing new products that add value to agricultural commodities; or helping promote tourism and recreation to Michigan and out-of-state residents.

Check out the survey and take the time to influence the direction of MSUE. Click [here](#) to get started.