



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

September 2015

MFGC Office

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Calendar of Events

Board Meeting

Wed., Sept. 16, 2015
235 N. Pine St.
Lansing

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 8, 2015
4:30 to 6:30 pm
MFGC reception and
annual meeting
Devos Place
Grand Rapids

2015 Board of Directors

President

Bill Tuinier

Vice-President

Dennis Crum

Secretary/Treasurer

Donny Marvaso

Members

Dick Derks
Andy Buist
Ken Tuinier
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

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Erik Runkle

Allied Trade Appointees

Bud Ripberger
Mike Faber

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Tammy Ruhlig

WMGA Appointee

Scott Stiles

Policy Chair

Ken Tuinier

Membership Chair

Susie Raker-Zimmerman

I hope you are enjoying the lovely beds of annuals planted all over Michigan. From the Capitol lawn to the Michigan area rest-stops, we are bursting with blooms and it makes me so proud to see all of our efforts come to fruition.

Our consumers know little background on the months of planning, preparation and nurturing we put in to bring them their spring plantings. If you had a chance this summer to go on garden tours - just about every village, town and city in Michigan hosts one - you saw the fruits of our labor interspersed amongst the perennials. I find great satisfaction in the glorious results, like an artist's palate of riotous color!

We were featured in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Publication in 2015. It was a great article with highlights of the industry. If you would like a box of publications, they are available through [Julian Vail, LLC](#). I recommend keeping a stack in your office for customers and visitors.

Well, it's time to start planning and gearing up for our next season. Best wishes for a successful 2016...Oh, and enjoy the rest of the summer. You deserve it!

Happy growing,

Bill Tuinier, President
MFGC

MAEAP Certified Members

Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC * Kalamazoo

Great Lakes Greenhouses * Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse * Dorr

Joe Theisen Farm * St. Clair

Westrate Greenhouses, Inc * Kalamazoo

MSU Hidden * Lake Gardens



Protecting Pollinators in Ornamental Landscapes Conference

Date: October 12, 2015 - October 14, 2015

Location: Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

Contact: Dr. Kristin Getter, getterk@msu.edu

The First National Conference on Protecting Pollinators in the Ornamental Landscape will take place October 12-14, 2015 at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC.

Hosted by Michigan State University and North Carolina State University, this conference is intended for extension educators, academic and industry researchers, growers, and representatives of related industries interested in or involved with ornamental plant production or maintenance.

For more detailed information about this conference, including lodging information, visit: <http://www.ornamentalpollinators.org/>.

For your Customers?

From Better Homes and Gardens... For many gardeners, annuals are a go-to solution for many garden needs. Annual flowers are a quick way to fill empty spots in flowerbeds, and early-blooming spring annuals make great additions to container gardens. A mix of annual plants can offer a colorful solution for windowbox plantings.



However, for any garden, there are dozens of annuals that might work for particular sun/shade situations, soil conditions, and color/plant preferences.

The Plant Encyclopedia is a sortable plant database that helps you narrow down the best annuals for your growing conditions, as well as the annual flowers that offer the color and growing habit you prefer.

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/annual/>



Online registration for the 2015 EXPO opens on Monday, September 28.

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

Most of the information on the current expo site pertains to the 2014 EXPO. Session

summaries for the 2014 EXPO are now available. Stay tuned for site updates beginning in mid-September, 2015 for the December 8 - 10, 2015 Great Lakes EXPO.

APHIS Adds to List of Pests No Longer Regulated at U.S. Ports of Entry

APHIS added five pests to the list of *Pests No Longer Regulated at U.S. Ports of Entry*. Therefore, APHIS will not take regulatory action on these organisms at ports of entry. Although this action is consistent with U.S. trade policy, and fulfills international agreements while promoting safe trade, MDARD had a comment regarding the Banana Moth (See Robin Rosenbaum's letter at this [link](#)).

APHIS continues to collaborate with the National Plant Board who concurs with the change in entry status for these pests. The list now includes 83 pests. To view the list of pests, or for further information on non-actionable pests, refer to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/non-regulated-pests>.

For further information on the Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary program refer to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/frsmp>

The National Plant Board reviewed the proposal put forth by APHIS to change the status of the following pests to non-actionable at ports of entry:

1. Banana moth
2. Mediterranean pine engraver
3. Coconut borer
4. Yellow longhorn beetle
5. Erythrina Gall wasp

New Injury Reporting Requirements

Beginning today, MIOSHA implemented the new injury reporting requirements in response to the changes federal OSHA made effective January 1, 2015. Employers in the state of Michigan will be required to report any work-related amputation, loss of an eye, or in-patient hospitalization of any employee, within 24 hours of the incident. Currently, employers must report the work-related in-patient hospitalization of three or more employees.

Employers can go to the MIOSHA Recordkeeping [website](#) to report an in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye incident or call the new injury report line: 844-464-6742. This system should NOT be used for reporting work related fatalities. All work-related fatalities must still be reported within eight hours to the current fatality line: 800-858-0397.

If you have any questions, please contact MIOSHA Information Services Section staff at 517-284-7788.

USDA SEES 36 PERCENT DROP IN NET FARM INCOME

Net farm income this year is now expected to drop to just \$58.3 billion this year, a steep 36 percent drop from the \$91.1 billion earned in 2014, according to a new forecast from the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The prediction puts income this year at the lowest level since 2006, but Vilsack put the drop in a positive light, touting the farm sector for weathering the damages to the egg-laying and turkey sectors from bird flu. See the full report here: <http://1.usa.gov/17yUdcj> and Vilsack's statement here: <http://bit.ly/1NSKhKo> .

