



August 2016

Dear Member,

I recently read that global mean temperatures in July 2016 were the warmest on record not just for July, but for any month dating to the late 1800's, according to separate just released analyses. Though temperatures in our part of the globe here in Michigan weren't singled out as the hottest place on earth, I didn't need these analyses to point out what we were feeling and experiencing: July was the hottest and driest months we've had in a while! Trying to beat the heat - and all it brings - was not easy, and continues as one of Mother Nature's signature challenges we face as greenhouse growers.

Ah, yes. We renewed the fight against growing insect populations. Insects multiply faster in higher temperatures and migrate from outside into the haven of our greenhouses looking for moisture. Our regimen of spraying twice a week for three weeks and rotating different chemical classes has put the insects under control. We look forward to cooler temperatures just around the corner and having at least this one challenge reaching a more normal level.

The government, for the last few months at least, has not introduced any new challenges for our industry; things have been quiet. Remember that Michigan Floriculture Growers Council is your watchdog and is always monitoring the government to protect our industry's welfare and wellbeing. Keep in mind that this organization must survive to insure our industry's continued representation at the legislative level. We must protect ourselves from issues - future issues even unknown to us - that directly affect our individual operations and industry as a whole. Our government is always changing and often wants to govern more than we need. The MFGC is here to keep them in check and help improve government decisions.

Please consider this when you get your renewal and send it back promptly! Thank you!

Bill Tuinier, President

Membership renewals were mailed this week!

Your membership is important to the overall success of the entire Michigan Greenhouse Industry. Please renew as soon as possible.

Always feel free to contact the MFGC office staff or your MFGC board members if you have questions or need assistance. 517-367-2033

Meeting Recap

We had a great meeting at Micandy Gardens in Hudsonville.
Thank you to all who attended.



Thank you to the Buist family and Micandy Gardens for their wonderful hospitality!

Congress in Recess, Reach Out To Your Elected Officials Today!

The August congressional recess is upon us, and elected officials are back in their home districts and states spending time with their constituents. Now is the time to speak up and make your voice heard about issues important to you. Call and set up a private meeting or attend town hall meetings.

Click here to [find your congressman](#).

The Next REAP Competition is Coming Soon. Start Planning Your Project Now.

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is open to Agricultural Producers and Rural Small Businesses.

Grants can be used for the purchase, installation, and construction of a Renewable Energy System or Energy Efficiency Improvement.

Rural Small Business Projects must be located in a rural area with populations of 50,000 or less. The Agricultural Producer Projects can be located in rural or non-rural areas.

REAP Grants provide a 25% cash reimbursement of the total system costs, with a maximum grant of \$500,000 for Renewable Energy Systems and \$250,000 for Energy Efficiency Improvements.

Applications for projects with Total Project Costs of \$80,000 or less are accepted through Monday, October 31, 2016. Applications for projects with Total Project Costs greater than \$80,000 are accepted through Monday, May 1, 2017.

The Application Templates and Forms are available at USDA Rural Development Offices or the National Website at: www.rd.usda.gov/reap under Forms and Resources.

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STAY CONNECTED:



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