



## MICHIGAN GREENHOUSE GROWERS COUNCIL

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**Welcome new members:**

Esman Greenhouse, Inc.  
Rinzema Greenhouse, Inc.  
Walters Gardens, Inc

Greetings,

As you know we have been focused on the re-branding of Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council and all the opportunities that this change offers to the membership and council. We are excited to share all of the details with you in January at the MGGC conference.

MGGC will have a booth at the Great Lakes Expo so please stop by booth #1449 and visit with us.

The council has been planning a first ever education conference for members on Thursday, January 25 at the Foundry in Kalamazoo. Mark your calendar and plan to attend as you will not want to miss the opportunity this conference will present.

On behalf of the entire council, we hope to see you at GLE and the January 25 conference.

Happy Holidays,

Bill Tuinier, President



The [Plants for Planting Manual](#) has been updated.

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### SAVE THE DATE

January Conference  
January 25, 2018  
8:30 Registration & Coffee  
9 am - 1 pm  
Lunch included  
The Foundry  
600 East Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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### MGGC Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 10 am  
Andy Mast Greenhouses,  
1534 Pannell NW  
Grand Rapids

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## MGGC 2017 Election:

Members with voting privileges will receive an electronic ballot with a return date of no later than Friday, December 8, 2017. You may return your ballot by email, fax, mail or at the Great Lakes Expo MGGC booth #1449.

Please vote for two candidates.

Candidates:

1. Susie Raker Zimmerman (I)

2. Lisa Wenke Ambrosio

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### Appointed Positions will be filled on January 25 during the board meeting which follows the MGGC member conference.

Appointed Positions:

Western Michigan Greenhouse Association (1 position)

Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers Association (1 position)

Education (1 position)

Allied (2 positions)

Please notify Val at the MGGC office by January 9, 2018 if you are interested in any of the above appointed positions. We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing from you.

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### Michigan Greenhouse Growers provide poinsettias to Governor's Residence

Thank you to all who have donated poinsettias each year to highlight the Greenhouse Industry at the Governor's Residence. The Greenhouse industry is highlighted throughout the month of December. Thank you to this year's donor: Andy Mast Greenhouses

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**Great Lakes Expo** is December 5, 6, and 7 in Grand Rapids. If you plan to attend and would like to spend an hour or two in the MGGC booth, please contact Val at (517) 367-2033 or [val@julianvail.com](mailto:val@julianvail.com)

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR



NICK A. KHOURI  
STATE TREASURER

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
LANSING

Nov. 28, 2017

Contact: [Ron Leix](#), Treasury, 517-335-2167

### Treasury Warns Taxpayers of Fraudulent Phone Calls

***Never Provide Personal Information Over the Phone***

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Treasury is warning taxpayers of aggressive and threatening phone calls made by criminals impersonating state tax officials.

Within the last couple of days, the state Treasury Department has observed a surge in scam phone calls where scammers are claiming to be state tax officials and asking for cash through a wire transfer, prepaid debit card or gift card. Victims are told they owe money and will face arrest, legal action or suspension of business if not paid promptly.

Scammers are also altering caller ID numbers to make it look like Treasury is calling. The callers may use employee titles, a person's name, address and other personal information to sound official.

"Unfortunately, scammers are consistently using new tricks and tactics to take advantage of taxpayers," said Deputy Treasurer Glenn White, head of Treasury's Tax Administration Group. "The Michigan Department of Treasury doesn't initially contact taxpayers through the phone. Our first interaction is generally done by mail."

**Treasury will never:**

- Initiate a phone call to ask for personal information.
- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, Treasury will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for a PIN, password or access codes to your bank accounts or credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Taxpayers who don't owe taxes or don't think they owe taxes should hang up immediately if they receive one of these calls. For individuals who owe taxes or think they do, they can call 517-636-5265 to find out their account balance information.

Taxpayers who have received a call from a scammer should report the case to the IRS [through the web](#) or by calling 800-366-4484.

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You are invited to attend  
**NAVIGATING YOUR (NEW) BUSINESS SEMINAR**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The Michigan Department of Treasury is partnering with the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)

**Lansing Area - Monday, December 4, 2017**

Operations Center  
Rooms A,B,C  
7285 Parsons Drive  
Dimondale, MI 48821  
[Click here to pre-register \(required\)](#)

**Southeastern Michigan - Tuesday, December 19, 2017**

Henry Ford College  
Michael A. Berry Amphitheater  
Andrew Mazzara Admin. Services & Conference Center  
5101 Evergreen Road  
Dearborn, MI 48128  
[Click here to pre-register \(required\)](#)

The Michigan Department of Treasury is partnering with the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to provide registration, licensing, taxation, filing and compliance training for businesses (including MTO navigation assistance). This seminar is ideal for new businesses just getting started or any business needing clarification on any compliance topic covered in the seminar.

*All businesses are welcome!*

Please click the above registration links for more details about the seminars.

**Reserve your seat today, space is limited!**

**Can't make these seminars?**

Stay tuned for more Treasury outreach events! MTO and other scheduled outreach topics are listed on our Treasury Outreach Events [calendar](#). If you have a topic or location suggestion for the Treasury Outreach Program, please email it to [TreasuryOutreach@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasuryOutreach@michigan.gov).

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**Dear Census of Agriculture Partner,**

NASS is only a few weeks from mailing the 2017 Census of Agriculture to approximately 3 million U.S. producers (mailing runs from mid-November through late December). As the weeks progress, we will continue to provide you with updates, like the one below, and additional promotion tools to raise awareness about and encourage response to the census. We appreciate your support of NASS data and hope you will find the promotional tools useful in your communications with your members, constituents and stakeholders.

**New materials on the Partner Tools webpage** ([www.aqcensus.usda.gov/Partners](http://www.aqcensus.usda.gov/Partners)) for your use:

- USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's second video [public service announcement \(PSA\)](#)
- Two sample [PSA scripts](#) for radio or video
- Use and/or share [promotion tips](#)

**Check the Partner Tools webpage** each month for new/updated tools. A census preparation checklist for producers will be made available on the site in October. 'Respond Now' tools will be uploaded on/around November 20.

**An idea for a social media post(s) or newsletter blurb:** Describe the value of the census data to your audience via testimonials, short case study/example, etc. Many producers don't realize how answering, or not answering, NASS surveys and questionnaires directly impacts them, their communities, and industries. Even if producers do not use the results themselves or take advantage of USDA or other ag programs and services that rely on the data, everyone is affected by rural development (e.g. the paving of roads, internet access, veteran health clinic and agribusiness set-up), disaster relief (census data can be used to determine how much and what kind of aid may be needed in affected areas), etc. Beyond being used by policymakers, the data also justifies research and the development of new technologies. Census data are also used to determine where there should be ag education in schools and to simply promote the importance of agriculture among non-agricultural neighbors. The list is long, one that you can add to by sharing your own use of the data, but the takeaway is that every producer's voice is important to the future of U.S. agriculture. Don't miss the three testimonial videos linked on the partner tools page - [How you use](#) NASS data, [Why you use](#) NASS data, and [Why respond](#) to NASS surveys.

**Other updates**

- We distributed a [national press release](#) in late September to highlight what's new this census. It also introduced USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's PSA. Please feel free to use the content in your communications.

- October 1 – We took down the online questionnaire demonstration site to prepare it for the census launch next month.

**Thanks for the ReTweets and Shares!** – NASS is continuing our state-specific infographics series on Twitter (@USDA\_NASS) and “Get to Know Your State Statistician” USDA Facebook series through December. Don’t forget to keep sharing and retweeting!

We greatly appreciate your partnership and efforts with this very important endeavor. If you need anything to help with census promotion, or have any questions, please feel free to contact your NASS [state statistician](#), or me at [marlo.johnson@nass.usda.gov](mailto:marlo.johnson@nass.usda.gov), (800) 498-1518.

Thanks again,  
Marlo D. Johnson  
Regional Director  
USDA NASS Great Lakes Region

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**MAEAP Certified Members**

Great Lakes Greenhouses \* Greendorr Greenhouses \* John Theisen Farm \*  
Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC \* Ken's Greenhouse \* Klooster Greenhouses \*  
Micandy Gardens \* Tom's Greenhouse \* Westrate Greenhouse, Inc.

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**Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council**

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(517) 367-2033



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Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council  
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[Unsubscribe](#)