



March 2019

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From the President's Desk ...

Dear MGGC members,

Our current Executive Director, Val Vail-Shirey has accepted a new position. She is now working with the Michigan House of Representatives in the role of legislative director to State Representative Julie Alexander, District 64. Representative Alexander also chairs the Michigan House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

After much deliberation and many interviews, I am pleased to announce our new Executive Director Goeff Hansen of Mainstreet Consulting, a subsidiary of Michigan Small Business Association (SBAM). Hansen is a seasoned governmental affairs professional with 14 years of service in the Michigan legislature, and a strong background in agriculture and agribusiness issues. Michigan Association Management Services, LLC (MAMS), also a subsidiary of SBAM will handle the day-to-day administration of MGGC. This strategic partnership will further our primary focus to promote and protect the interests of greenhouse growers in Michigan. Additionally, benefits of SBAM will be available to all members of MGGC.

We will continue our work on crop insurance for greenhouses and will move forward with the Farm Bill approved study.

I am also delighted to announce that Michigan greenhouses will be featured in an upcoming Grown in Michigan video series. Stay tuned with more info to come.

You are encouraged to call the MGGC office or myself with any concerns, ideas, etc. We appreciate hearing from you.



Dave Mast
President MGGC

The 100th Legislature Agriculture Committee

The Michigan 100th Legislature has established the committees and here are the members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, both policy and appropriations. Each members' name is linked to their email. Save this information for future use and communication.

House Agriculture Policy Committee

[Julie Alexander \(R\) Committee Chair, 64th District](#)

[Luke Meerman \(R\) Majority Vice-Chair, 88th District](#)

[Beau LaFave \(R\) 108th District](#)

[Gary Eisen \(R\) 81st District](#)

[Mike Mueller \(R\) 51st District](#)

[Pauline Wendzel \(R\) 79th District](#)

[Brian Elder \(D\) Minority Vice-Chair, 96th District](#)

[Kevin Coleman \(D\) 16th District](#)

[Alex Garza \(D\) 12th District](#)

[Cynthia A. Johnson \(D\) 5th District](#)

[Angela Witwer \(D\) 71st District](#)

House Agriculture Appropriations Committee

[Greg VanWoerkom \(R\) Committee Chair, 91st District](#)

[Ann Bollin \(R\) Majority Vice-Chair, 42nd District](#)

[Thomas Albert \(R\) 86th District](#)

[Phil Green \(R\) 84th District](#)

[Sheryl Kennedy \(D\) Minority Vice-Chair, 48th District](#)

[Terry Sabo \(D\) 92nd District](#)

[Julie Brixie \(D\) 69th District](#)

Senate Agriculture Policy Committee

[Kevin Daley \(R\) Chair](#)

[Roger Victory \(R\) Vice Chair](#)

[Dan Lauwers \(R\)](#)

[Jim Ananich \(D\) Minority Vice Chair](#)

[Dayna Polehanki](#) (D)

Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee

[Roger Victory](#) (R) Chair

[Kevin Daley](#) (R) Vice Chair

[Sean McCann](#) (D)

Treasury: Estimated Tax Penalty for Farmers, Fishermen Waived

The Michigan Department of Treasury is [following the Internal Revenue Service](#) and waiving the estimated tax penalty for any qualifying farmer or fisherman who files his or her 2018 state income tax return and pays any tax due by Monday, April 15, 2019.

This tax relief is being provided by the IRS and state Treasury Department because certain federal rule changes have caused difficulty for many farmers and fishermen to accurately determine their tax liability by the March 1 deadline that usually applies to them.

For the 2018 tax year, an individual who received at least two-thirds of his or her total gross income from farming or fishing during 2017 or 2018 qualifies as a farmer or fisherman.

“I strongly encourage eligible Michigan farmers and fishermen to take advantage of this tax relief,” said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, who oversees Treasury’s Tax Administration programs. “Like the IRS, we will waive the estimated tax penalty.”

To be eligible for the waiver, qualifying Michigan farmers and fishermen must attach [IRS Form 2210-F](#) to their 2018 state income tax return.

The taxpayer’s name and identifying number, usually a Social Security number, must be entered at the top of [IRS Form 2210-F](#). The waiver box—Part I, Box A—should be checked. The rest of the form should be left blank.

No additional state tax form needs to be completed to receive this tax relief.

Greenhouse Disease and Insect Recommendations

Insect and disease management recommendations
for the 2019 growing season

EAST LANSING, Mich. — [Michigan State University Extension](#) entomology specialist for ornamentals [David Smitley](#) has released his “[2019 Greenhouse Insect Management](#)” recommendations. These are the recommended products to control thrips, aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, broad and cyclamen mites, fungus gnats, mealybugs and Florida fern caterpillar.

MSU Extension plant pathologist [Mary Hausbeck](#) has released her new “[Greenhouse Disease Management 2019 Season](#)” recommendations. The products are classified as either “A” or “B”

team products. The “A” team products provide the best control for the diseases, and “B” team products are those that provide control and are good to include in a spray rotation.

In addition, Hausbeck and her colleagues have also released a [new guide for disease management specifically for vegetable and herb crops](#). The new guide provides the following information about each registered product for vegetable transplants and herbs: 1) active ingredient, 2) trade name of the product, 3) FRAC code (numbers based on the mode of action of the active ingredient) and 4) re-entry interval. The disease recommendations are grouped by crop groups: 1) Brassica, 2) Cucurbit, 3) Leafy, 4) Fruiting, and 5) Herbs. Within each crop grouping, the table lists whether it is registered for use for: bacterial blight, downy mildew, leaf spot, powdery mildew, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia or Sclerotinia.

If you have questions about these insect and disease management recommendations, contact the author or your local [MSU Extension greenhouse educator](#).

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

— Heidi Lindberg, Michigan State University Extension

Debalina Saha was offered and has accepted the ornamentals weed scientist position in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University, beginning July 15, 2019. She will be a great addition to our extension and research teams in greenhouse, nursery, and Christmas tree production.

Plant Inspection Fee Increases for 2019

MDARD's plant inspection fees will increase beginning on January 1, 2019. Hourly fees will increase from \$60/hour to \$61/hour. Acreage fees will increase from \$54 to \$56 for the first acre and will remain unchanged at \$33 for each additional acre.

Download [official letter](#) for details.

View the [Plants for Planting Manual](#).

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Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council

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