

Member Meeting June 27!



Once again MFCG had a booth at Ag Day at the Capitol and we were able to place a potted flower on every Senator's and Representative's desk.

A huge thank you to Post Gardens for the donation of flowers. We would also like to thank Jim Tuiner for delivering and helping to distribute the flowers.

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council is recognized for being Michigan's voice for Floriculture Growers.



Jim Tuiner
Ag Day at the Capitol

**Mark your calendar for the next Member Meeting!
Monday, June 27 at 10 a.m.**

Micandy Gardens
7833 48th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

[Registration Form](#)

Dr. Roberto Lopez moves to Michigan State University (MSU)

Press Release by Industry News
Crop Inputs

Dr. Lopez joins MSU from Purdue University, with an extensive background and knowledge in lighting, as well as CO₂, air and substrate temperature.

Dr. Roberto Lopez has joined the faculty in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing, Mich. as an Assistant Professor and Controlled Environment/Floriculture Extension Specialist. He will have a 45-percent research, 30-percent teaching, and 25-percent extension appointment. He joins MSU from an associate professor position at Purdue University.

Dr. Lopez will add to MSU's lighting expertise with his research background in traditional and LED supplemental and sole-source lighting and become part of the Floriculture Research Alliance. Lopez says he will continue investigating how light (quantity, quality, and duration), carbon dioxide, air and substrate temperature during the young and finished plant stages influence timing, rooting, quality, and subsequent performance of specialty crops. His new area of research at MSU will include hydroponic greenhouse and indoor production of leafy greens and vegetables.



Dr. Lopez will also add to MSU's horticulture curriculum by offering courses in greenhouse structures and management, floriculture production, and hydroponic food production. As part of his extension appointment, he will become the newest member of the MSU Greenhouse/Floriculture Crop Production Team which serves the \$480 million dollar Michigan Greenhouse Industry (3rd largest in the U.S). The nine-member team is composed of extension educators and outreach specialists with responsibilities in commercial floriculture and controlled environment production, staff at Diagnostic Services, and faculty members in the Departments of Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences and Floriculture.

Dr. Lopez will continue being a member of the award winning Electronic Growers Resources Online (e-GRO; <http://e-gro.org/>) which he and his colleagues Drs. Brian Whipker, Brian Krug, and Nora Catlin, began in 2012. Roberto comes to MSU after 8.5 years as an assistant and associate professor and Floriculture Extension Specialist in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue University.

Does Unclaimed Property have money that belongs to you?

Did you know that Michigan's Unclaimed Property paid over \$100 million in claims this past year? See if they are holding any funds for you.

Contact Unclaimed Property and they will search for any unclaimed stocks, life insurance policies, uncashed checks, matured CD's, savings accounts, safe deposit boxes and any other funds that you never knew you had or may have forgotten about.

Check out their website and search your name at www.michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty. Call them at 517-636-5320 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Calibrate your pH and EC meter in your greenhouse

The pH and electrical conductivity (EC) measurements are only as good as the calibration of your meter. Calibrate your meters now to prevent mistakes in your production planning. Posted on March 14, 2016 by Heidi Wollaeger, Michigan State University Extension



Photo 1. The Hanna Instruments HI 9313-6 meter that I will be using for demonstration purposes.

Spring is in full swing in the greenhouse! Vegetative cuttings are being stuck, plugs are being transplanted and finished product is being shipped south where spring has sprung. In the excitement, it is easy to forget the basics such as making sure your pH and electrical conductivity (EC) meters are calibrated correctly. The measurements you take with your meters are only as good as the calibration. If your pH and EC meter provides you with an inaccurate reading, you might falsely make a management decision about your spring crop.

There are a variety of EC and pH meters on the market, but I will be demonstrating these tips using a Hanna Instruments HI 9313-6 (Photo 1). Michigan State University Extension recommends the following tips for preparing your pH and EC meter for use:

- If you have not used your pH and EC meter in a while, follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to get it ready to go. After a long period without use, the electrode in probe of the meter will have likely dried out. I needed to soak the probe of my meter in a storage solution for a minimum of an hour (for example, HI70300 Storage solution).
- Once you have "re-wet" the probe, you will now need to calibrate the meter again. You will need to have the standard solutions that can be used with the meter to recalibrate it. For my meter, I needed the standards for the 4.01 pH and the 7.01 pH. I also needed to calibrate the EC and

- needed a solution with a known EC value ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) (Photo 2).



Photo 2. The standard solutions that match the meter I am using.

- Make sure your standard solutions are not expired! Frequently, we are tempted to draw out of the same bottle for years on end. Be careful, as the integrity of the solution may have changed over time. The manufacturers often sell these calibration solutions in various size bottles or convenient disposable, individually-packaged sachets.
- Rinse the electrode at the end of the probe with distilled water.

- If your standard solutions came in a larger bottle, pour the standard solution into a clean, dry container such as a small cup. If your standard solution came in an individual sachet, place the electrode directly into the packet. After inserting the electrode in the standard solution, adjust the dial to make sure your meter is reading the pH of the known standard (Photo 3). Never dip the probe directly into the larger bottle as the known pH or EC will become inaccurate over time. Also, growers should take note that the pH of the solution changes with temperature, so be sure to check the temperature of the solution before calibrations.



Photo 3. Calibrate your meter by turning the dial with the standard solution: 4.01 pH shown here.

- Rinse between calibrations with distilled water.
- Calibrate you meter to a known EC. Notice this meter displays the number of mS/cm, but the calibration packet lists the number of $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. Remember 1.41 mS/cm is equivalent to approximately 1413 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (Photo 4).



Photo 4. Calibrate the EC of your meter, noting the difference in units between the display of the EC meter and the labeled calibration solution.

- You are ready to go and measure the EC and pH of your crops!

By performing these simple steps, you will be able to detect accurately if the pH of a crop is creeping up or if the soluble salts are getting too high, for example, which can cause nutrient deficiencies and toxicities in plants. Remember, pH is based on a logarithmic scale, so a pH of 6.0 is 10 times more basic than a pH of 5.0. What appears to be small shifts in pH are actually larger than you might think and may quickly affect the nutrient uptake of your plants. Now, let's keep growing!

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.

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[Article Link](#)

A final rule on how workplace injuries and illnesses are reported to the federal government - and the posting of that data to the federal agency website - was published this week by OSHA, a move to "nudge" industry to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.

The new rule is effective in August. "With this new rule, OSHA is applying the insights of behavioral economics to improve workplace safety and prevent injuries and illnesses," the agency said. The collection and posting of the data, OSHA said, will "enable researchers to better study injury causation, identify new workplace safety hazards before they become widespread and evaluate the effectiveness of injury and illness prevention activities." Under

the new rule, employers with 250 or more employees in industries covered by recordkeeping regulations must electronically submit to OSHA injury and illness information from Forms 300, 300A and 301, the agency said. Employers with 20-249 workers in certain industries must electronically submit information to the agency on Form 300A only. The rule, designed to "modernize injury data collection to better inform workers, employers, the public and OSHA about workplace hazards," will overcome a major shortcoming in the current injury reporting system, namely that while employers may be required to keep and file records of injuries and illnesses, OSHA has little access to individual workplace injury/illness information. "Under the new rule, employers in high-hazard industries will send OSHA injury and illness data...for posting on the agency's website," OSHA said. The agency said it expects that public disclosure of workplace injury data will encourage employers to increase their efforts to prevent workplace injuries, and allow prospective workers to "identify workplaces where their risk of injury is lowest." As employers compete for workers, the company's priority on workplace safety goes up, OSHA reasoned.

Further, "to ensure the injury data on OSHA logs are accurate and complete," the rule also allows employees to separately post to OSHA injury and illnesses without "fear of retaliation," and clarifies that an employer has to have a reasonable procedure for reporting work-related injuries that doesn't discourage workers from reporting. The new rule can be found by [clicking here](#).

MABA Weekly Washington Report 5-24-16

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MFGC
235 N Pine St * Lansing, MI 48933
mifgc.org * mail@mifgc.org
(517) 367-2033

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council, 235 N. Pine St, Lansing, MI 48933

Constant Contact 