



# MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

December 2016

## MI Floriculture Growers *Becomes* Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council *at* Annual Member Meeting

At the annual member meeting in Grand Rapids on December 6, 2016, the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council members were informed the group officially became the Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council. The MGGC members' decision was unanimous.

Members gathered around the podium as Mr. Tom Dudek, MSU Extension Specialist in the western portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, received accolades for his 18 years of service as an extension specialist. Tom received a plaque from the Council and applause all around.



*President Bill Tuinier presents Tom Dudek with recognition for his years of service*

Mr. Tom Kalchik, a private consultant hired by the MSU Product Center on behalf of the Michigan Greenhouse Growers, gave a synopsis on his investigation into recycling containers. He conducted face-to-face interviews with selected members of the Council and is compiling input from a survey of the membership. The results of the survey will be available in January 2017.



*Tom Kalchik discusses the recycling survey*

The final discussion before member networking and visiting ensued, was from a panel of experts regarding the updated Agriculture Worker Protection Standards (WPS) which are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Panel discussion on the Worker Protection Standards included:  
Antonio Castro-Escobar, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Tom Dudek, Michigan State University  
Craig Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Dennis Crum, Michigan Greenhouse Growers Representative

Discussion included first step in WPS as it only applies when you are using a pesticide. Standards come into effect on January 2, 2017, but clarification, education and outreach won't be ready by then. WPS training already in place is to be used until new materials are available. In the meantime, the following changes will impact Greenhouse growers:

1. There are Restricted Entry Areas that must have good signage.

Central Notification of the Safety Data Sheet and a poster at all sites with 11 full-time workers. Must comply January 2, 2017.

2. Workers are to be kept out of the areas.

3. Annual Training:

There are 23 worker topics to cover, 36 pesticide handler topics and records proving worker training took place must be kept on-site.

4. MDARD Certifies the WPS trainer

- a) Certified Applicator can be a trainer
- b) The American Horticulture Society is working on certifying trainers
- c) Respirator fit testing will be required for applicators and employees
- d) If an employee doesn't pass the fit test, he/she cannot be in greenhouse after spraying
- e) Employers can't know (HIPPA rules) why the employee can't wear the respirator

Fit testing

1. Applies to current and new hires
2. Must take place annually
3. Be done by a medical provider
4. If no pass, must either re-take the test or not work

For training, growers:

1. Use the current video
2. Use a sign-in sheet
3. Use EPA approved trainer or certified applicator
4. Go through the training too

For more information visit this

link: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/agricultural-worker-protection-standard-wps>.

After the presentations, members mingled and enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and networking. There was an open bar, with gourmet sandwiches and scrumptious deserts. If you couldn't make the annual meeting this year, we encourage you to keep your schedules open for next year's meeting.



*Craig Anderson from Michigan Farm Bureau talks Worker Protection Standards*



*From Left to Right; panel of speakers re: WPS: Antonio Escobar, MDARD; Tom Dudek, MSU; Craig Anderson, MFB; Dennis Crum, MGGC & Four Star*



## Michigan Poinsettias Grace the Governor's House

On November 30th, WoJos Greenhouse, on behalf of the Michigan Floriculture (now Greenhouse) Growers Council donated many lovely Poinsettias to Governor Snyder's residence for the holiday season. Governor Snyder and his staff truly appreciated the donation and every year look forward to sparking the season with gorgeous, Michigan grown poinsettias. This is wonderful exposure for greenhouse growers, as many visitors are welcomed to the residence each year including business owners, journalists, legislators, policy staff and friends. Click here for a recent Michigan Poinsettias [article](#).

Thank you WoJo's Greenhouse!



## MDARD Announces Specialty Crop Public Input Opportunity

For Immediate Release: December 8, 2016

Media Contact: Jessy Sielski, 517-284-5725

To ensure effective priorities within the Michigan Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development today announced a public input opportunity, which will be held through January 12, 2017.

The MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Program awards funds to projects to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan specialty crops, which include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

To submit comments, visit [www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants) or send them via email to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov). The deadline for comments is January 12, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. The input received will be considered when developing final program priorities for 2017.



QUESTIONS?

[Contact Us](#) - Phone: 800-292-3939

## MGGC Opportunity Awaits!

We look forward to the January 9th meeting at the Detroit Eastern Market (DEM) at 10:00 a.m. in the main offices. Growers are invited to attend. This is a meeting to discuss how Michigan Greenhouses can utilize the Eastern Market and market their products or greenhouse. The sky is the limit so bring your ideas and attend on Monday, January 9.

Please RSVP to Val if you plan on attending [val@julianvail.com](mailto:val@julianvail.com) or 517-367-2033



Detroit Eastern Market  
1445 Adelaide, Detroit, MI 48207  
January 9 - 10 am  
DEM Office



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS  
DIRECTOR

November 28, 2016

TO: Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association  
Michigan Green Industry Association  
Michigan Christmas Tree Association  
Michigan Floriculture Growers Council  
Michigan Agri-Business Association

SUBJECT: Notification of Inspection Fees Changes for 2017

Based on an increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Fiscal Year 2016, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development (the Commission) approved an increase in fees charged for nursery stock, Christmas tree, export, import, and other inspections. The hourly-based fees will increase from \$58 per hour to \$59 per hour. Annual nursery grower inspection fees, which are based on acreage, will remain unchanged at \$53 per acre for the first acre and \$32 per acre for additional acres. The fee increase becomes effective January 1, 2017 and remains in effect until December 31, 2017.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) charges fees for inspection of plants and plant products as authorized under Public Act 189 of 1931, Insect Pests and Plant Diseases. Act 189 prescribes that MDARD will annually evaluate its costs of conducting inspections and may adjust inspection fees by not more than an amount determined by the state treasurer to reflect the cumulative annual percentage change in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint CPI over the one-year period, with the adjustment not to exceed 5%. Fee increases are subject to the approval of the Commission.

The state treasurer reported to MDARD a 0.8% increase in the CPI for Fiscal Year 2016. The Commission approved an increase in inspection fees, based on the 0.8% change in the CPI, during the November 10th Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gina Alessandri'.

Gina Alessandri, Director  
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Save the date!



## EPA WPS OUTREACH SESSIONS

The Federal Worker Protection Standards (WPS) protects agricultural workers and pesticide handlers by reducing the risks of injury or illness resulting from contact with pesticides on farms and in forests, nurseries and greenhouses.

WPS requirements are intended to inform workers and handlers about pesticide safety, provide protections from potential exposure to pesticides, and mitigate exposures that do occur.

In order to provide stronger protections for the nation's two million agricultural workers and their families, the standards have been revised. Compliance with the new requirements begins January 2, 2017.

**Sessions are designed to help growers understand the revised standards and what must be done to do be in compliance.**

RECERTIFICATION CREDITS WILL BE OFFERED

Get location information and register on line at:  
<http://events.anr.msu.edu/EPAWPSOutreachSessions/>



Pesticide Safety  
Education Program  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



January 10, 2017

MSU Clarksville Station  
9302 Portland Rd.  
Clarksville, MI 48815

1:00 – 4:00

January 17, 2017

MSU Northwest Michigan  
Horticulture Research Station  
686 S. Center Highway  
Traverse City, MI 49684

1:00 – 4:00

January 24, 2017

MSU Southwest Michigan  
Research and Extension Center  
1791 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

1:00 – 4:00

January 31, 2017

New Era Reformed Church  
4774 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
New Era, MI 49446

1:00 – 4:00

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION  
IS REQUIRED**

**REGISTRATION FEE  
\$25.00**

**All registered participants  
will receive outreach,  
training and compliance  
tools.**

[Register online](http://events.anr.msu.edu/EPAWPSOutreachSessions/)

## 2017-18 Legislative Leadership Michigan Senate & House of Representatives

### Michigan Senate

Senate Majority Leader	Senator Arlan B. Meekhof	Senate District 30
Senate Majority Floor Leader	Senator Mike Kowall	Senate District 15
Senate President Pro Tem	Senator Tonya Schuitmaker	Senate District 26
Senate Minority Leader	Senator Jim Ananich	Senate District 27
Senate Minority Floor Leader	Senator Morris Hood III	Senate District 3
Senate Appropriations Chair	Senator Dave Hildenbrand	Senate District 29

### Michigan House of Representatives

Speaker of the House	Representative Tom Leonard	House District 93
Majority Floor Leader	Representative Dan Lauwers	House District 81
Speaker Pro-Tem	Representative Lee Chatfield	House District 107
Minority Leader	Representative Sam Singh	House District 69
Minority Floor Leader	Representative Christine Greig	House District 37
House Appropriations Chair	Representative Laura Cox	House District 19

First Session Day-Swearing in of Legislature-Wednesday, January 11, 2017



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John Gernaat & Sons Greenhouse \* Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC \*  
Ken's Greenhouse \* Lexington Gardens \* Micandy Gardens \*  
Nash Greenhouse \* Tom's Greenhouse \* Westrate Greenhouse, Inc.



MFGC  
235 N Pine St \* Lansing, MI 48933  
[mifgc.org](http://mifgc.org) \* [mail@mifgc.org](mailto:mail@mifgc.org)  
(517) 367-2033

STAY CONNECTED:



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