

The *MAYFLOWER* & Floral Notes

A Joint Publication
Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association
& UMass Extension

August 2015

Summer Trial Garden Tour & Review of 2015 Spring Growing Season Twilight Meeting for Greenhouse Growers & Garden Retailers

August 11, 2015 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Elm Bank Reservation, 900 Washington St, Wellesley, MA

Join us for a summer twilight meeting on the beautiful grounds of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. We will begin with a tour of the trial gardens. See how annuals and perennials are performing in beds and containers for selecting plant material for next season and learn about greenhouse production tips for the plants. Next, we will review the 2015 spring crop growing season, talking about the good, the bad and the ugly – *over pizza!*

2:45 – 3:00 Registration

3:00 – 4:30 Trial Garden Tour

Conducted by Jessica Boldt, Production R&D Manager, Pleasant View Gardens, Tom Contrisciano, PanAmerican Seed, and David Fiske, Director of the Trial Gardens. Greenhouse cultural practices for the plants will be reviewed during the tour.

4:45 – 6:00 Looking Back at the 2015 Spring Season *over pizza*

Angie Madeiras, UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab, Tina Smith, UMass Extension & Bob Luczai, Mass Flower Growers Association. Diseases, insects, cultural problems and what was hot and not from the audience, a review of the 2015 spring growing season. **1 pesticide credit.**

Registration Form can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

Mark your Calendar
Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association

**Benefit Golf
Tournament**

Tuesday, August 4, 2015
Stow Acres Country Club
Stow, Massachusetts

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and Landscape
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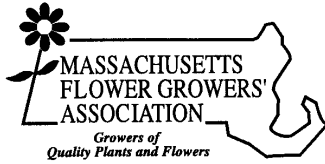
Starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp!
Registration & sponsorship flyer available in June

CELEBRATE 24 YEARS OF FUN!

2015 Summer Conference & Trade Show

July 23, 2015
Topsfield Fairgrounds

The MNLA/MFGA Summer Conference and Trade Show is being held at Topsfield Fairgrounds in Topsfield, MA. Take advantage of the newest ideas and cutting edge information and education to put you ahead of your competition. Pesticide credits, speed educational sessions and tours are only a few of this years' exciting programs. Plus, there'll be great opportunities to network with your colleagues over wine tastings, local microbrews, and live entertainment! Attending this event is worth 2 MCH Credits toward continuing education. www.mnla.com



Association News

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Growers of Quality Plants and Flowers

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New Members

Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association welcomes new members!

Associate Members

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New Plant Nutrient Management Regulations

Fertilizer retailers and turf and landscape practitioners in Massachusetts are advised to keep informed about changing plant nutrient management regulations. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has developed statewide plant nutrient regulations that went into effect on June 5, 2015. New regulations for agricultural production will take effect on December 5, 2015.

In 2012, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act Relative to the Regulation of Plant Nutrients (Act). The Act directed the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to develop regulations to ensure that plant nutrients are applied in an effective manner to provide sufficient nutrients for maintaining healthy agricultural and non-agricultural land, including turf and lawns, while minimizing the impacts of the nutrients on surface and ground water resources to protect human health and the environment.

The Act and regulations (333 CMR 31.00) establish standards for the applications of plant nutrients to agricultural land and non-agricultural turf and lawns. The regulations for non-agricultural turf and lawns became effective on June 5, 2015. The regulations for agricultural land will become effective on December 5, 2015.

These regulations are not directed toward greenhouse crop production, however they are directed toward garden retailers who sell phosphorus-containing fertilizers and to customers who use it.

The requirements for applications to non-agricultural turf and lawns include limitations on phosphorus containing fertilizer. Lawn care professionals and gardeners are required to obey plant nutrient application restrictions and use best management practices when applying plant nutrients.

Retailers who sell phosphorus -containing fertilizer are required to:

- Display phosphorus-containing fertilizer products separate from non-phosphorus fertilizer products and;
- Post a sign displaying language informing the consumer about phosphorus-containing fertilizer restrictions for turf and lawns.

330 section 31.08 requires the following language: **“Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. therefore, under massachusetts law, phosphorus containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawn or non-agricultural turf when (i) a Soil Test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for the growth of that Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf; or (ii) is used for newly established Lawn or Non-agricultural Turf during the first growing season.”**

MDAR has a printable retail sign available at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/pesticides/docs/phosphorus-fertilizer-retail-sign.pdf>

For more information on this regulation with links to resources see:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/plant-nutrient-management.html>

(The MDAR fact sheet for “Turf and Lawns” on this page provides a good summary of the regulations)

For more information or questions about the regulations, contact Hotze Wijnja at MDAR:

hotze.wijnja@state.ma.us or (617)-626-1771.

Compiled by Tina Smith, UMass Extension

Stockbridge School of Agriculture Horticulture Program

A few years ago the Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences was reorganized under the umbrella of the Stockbridge School. Faculty working in plant sciences teaching, research and outreach became Stockbridge faculty. Four new 4-year B.S. degree majors (Sustainable Horticulture, Turfgrass Science and Management, Plant and Soil Sciences, and Sustainable Food and Farming) were developed and added to the six existing Stockbridge 2-year A.S. degree programs.

We had to follow today's trend of applying "sustainable", "organic", and "natural" to anything and everything in naming the new horticulture major. This causes some people to think we might be teaching some kind of "wacky stuff" here. Also, some people are confused by the fact that we have both 2- and 4-year Sustainable Horticulture majors. The 2-year program is best for students who are not too sure about college or school in general. However, if a student chooses the 2-year option and decides they want to go on for a B.S. there's no problem! Transfer from the 2-year to the 4-year major is seamless with no delay in completing a B.S. degree.

I (Doug Cox) am the Undergraduate Advisor for both horticulture programs and anyone interested should contact me by email (dcox@umass.edu). Currently I teach Greenhouse Management, Plant Propagation, Herbaceous Plants, and Indoor Plants. Susan Han teaches Greenhouse Crop Production, Postharvest Physiology, and Botany. Recently-hired Mandy Bayer will teach a new course in Nursery Management for the first time this fall and she is preparing a course called "Plant Trends in Landscape Horticulture" for Spring 2016. To compliment these core horticulture courses we offer plant pathology, entomology, soil science and plant nutrition, plant physiology, horticulture internship, and business courses. There are also a great many useful plant-oriented electives from which students can choose to enhance their horticulture knowledge.

All of our courses are science- and technology-based and are grounded in "hardcore" practical greenhouse and nursery horticulture. We also teach "sustainable" topics like energy conservation, biological control, bee-safe pesticide use, organic fertilization and composts, water conservation, and low input plant materials. Nothing too wacky here!



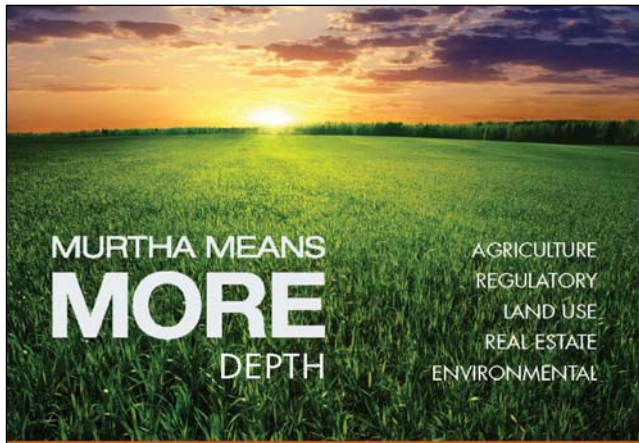
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Twilight Meeting

August 11, 2015

Registration Form

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Business Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Check payable to & return to: Mass Flower Growers' Assoc., 8 Gould Rd., Bedford, MA 01730

_____ No. Registrations x \$20.00/person = Total _____

Bob Luczai massflowergrowers@gmail.com or Tina Smith, tsmith@umext.umass.edu
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