

**Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
HORT Fund  
Final Report  
August 15, 2017**

**Project Title:** Systems Approach to Management of Pests and Pathogens in Nursery Crops and the U.S. Nursery Certification Program

**Project MDAH #:** 791N6600410

**Principal Investigator:** Robert E. Schutzki, Department of Horticulture  
Michigan State University

**Reporting period:** 6/1/16 – 8/15/2017

**Accomplishments during reporting period:**

We conducted literature searches for information on both a systems approach to management of pests and pathogens in nursery crops and the US Nursery Certification Program.

The information obtained was used in planning a workshop in March 2017. An article/announcement was published in the Michigan Landscape.

We worked with MNLA on promotional and registration details. Announcements and registration materials were sent to all nursery members of the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, all registered nursery license holders with MDARD and to landscape and nursery associations in the central region. The program was set for ANR week (March 2017) on the Michigan State University campus.

The two day workshop agenda included invited presentations by Kenneth Rauscher, National Plant Board representative; Tom Buechel, McKay Nursery; Darrel Maddox, AmericanHort; and Jerry Lee, formerly with Monrovia Nursery and presently with AmericanHort.

Registration did not result in a sufficient number of participants to justify conducting the program. The program was canceled. Funds were used for promotional materials and canceled air flights for out of state presenters. Reasons for the low registration was attributed to weather. An early start to spring and typical spring workloads prevented producers from attending. As a result we had a meeting with MDARD staff to discuss our options. It was recommended that we return the remaining 2016 funds and reapply for funding in the 2017 cycle.

**Impacts:**

A systems approach to management of pests and pathogens in nursery crops is being piloted by the National Plant Board and is the basis for the US Nursery Certification Program and trade with Canada. Knowledge of the systems approach and its influence on pest and pathogens is becoming more important in the production and distribution of nursery stock both domestically and internationally. Information both generated and shared through this project will prepare Michigan and regional producers for future regulatory requirements, enhance their production

strategies, maximize distribution of crops and minimize the potential losses from the spread of damaging pests and pathogens.

**Funding partners:**

Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University

Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Publications/ outreach activities related to project:**

In addition to addressing the topic at the 2018 Great Lakes Trade Exposition, a regional meeting is being planned for February 2018 in Lansing, MI.