

*Note: the links within this e-Newsletter contain outdated information and have been removed.*



DECEMBER 2020

## MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION E-NEWSLETTER

As we go through this Holiday season, the MNLA Team and Board of Directors wish each of you and your families good health and happiness. We look forward to working for and with you in the New Year!

We are pleased to bring you these updates to keep you and your employees up-to-date and informed.

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## MNLA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas to Everyone!

*Zac Armintrout, Armintrout's Nursery*

This has been an incredibly difficult year for our world, our country, our association, and our members. I am grateful that the MNLA staff has displayed great leadership and guidance as we have navigated 2020. I honestly believe our association has excelled during this difficult time. I am also grateful for our members whose hard work and resilience was on full display this year.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope you reflect on the positive experiences you have had. The year was hard for everyone, but there is always some good to reflect on. Remember that 2020 might not have been the year you wanted, but it was a year that showed us all what we should truly be grateful for and what we should appreciate more. Now it is time to put the old year behind us and welcome a new. This holiday season, take the time to turn off the TV, put down your phone and take a break from social media. Focus your energy on spending time with the people who matter to you most.

I wish you and your family Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



## Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services Epidemic Order

On Sunday, November 15th, Michigan's Governor and the MI Dept of Health and Human Services announced an Emergency Gatherings and Face Mask Order. This is a 3-week order that takes effect on November 18 at 12:01 a.m. and remains in effect through December 8, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Here are highlights that impact our industry. [Read More](#)

## Nursery and Greenhouse Industry Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 2 Payments through USDA

This is a reminder that Michigan's Floriculture and Nursery Crop Producers\* affected by the coronavirus pandemic are eligible for direct payments through the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2, or CFAP 2.

\*Floriculture eligible for CFAP 2 includes cut flowers and cut greenery from annual and perennial flowering plants grown in a container or controlled environment for commercial sale. Nursery crops eligible for CFAP 2 include decorative or non-decorative plants grown in a container or controlled environment for commercial sale. Christmas trees are also eligible for CFAP 2. Visit [farmers.gov/cfap/nursery](https://farmers.gov/cfap/nursery) for more information on CFAP 2 eligibility and payment details related to floriculture and nursery crops, including cactus and Christmas trees. [Read More](#)

## Pesticide Certification Exam Changes

*From the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development  
November 17, 2020*

Due to continued community spread of COVID-19, MDARD's paper-based, in-person pesticide applicator certification exams will be suspended through December 8, 2020. We had 4 exam sessions that will be impacted by this decision and we are in the process of notifying those applicators. When we do resume in-person exams, these individuals will get priority access to exam sessions.

At the moment, computer-based, in-person exams continue to be available at some of Metro Institute's testing centers. If you wish to take a computer-based exam with Metro Institute, please call 877-533-2900 or visit their webpage at: [www.metrosignup.com](http://www.metrosignup.com). The cost of a computer-based exam with Metro Institute is \$55.

On a positive note, MDARD expects online exams to become readily available as early as Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Online exams are remotely proctored which allows examinees to take exams from nearly any location with a reliable Internet connection. These exams are also administered by Metro Institute, and the fee is \$60 per exam.

More information about online exams will be available soon and updates will be sent as information becomes available.

## Secretary of State Offers Expanded Online Services for Commercial Clients

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) is expanding its current online services for commercial clients to include vehicle title and registration transactions such as registration renewals and obtaining duplicate title/registration. This new feature also allows businesses to renew multiple vehicles at the same time.

The program is open to any business that owns multiple vehicles registered in the State of Michigan. Under the program, organizations can renew their business vehicle registration tags online, get a duplicate title and/or registration and get vehicle title information.

To sign up, the business needs to fill out a short application and attach an Excel spreadsheet of the company's vehicles and email it to the department. The department will link all of the vehicles to the business' Federal EIN number and their State of Michigan login. Once this is done, the business can log in and manage their vehicles. [Read More](#)

## Ag Exemption for Driver's Hours of Service – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Issues Ruling on Definition of Agricultural Commodity

*From AmericanHort:*

We have finally gotten the agricultural commodity definition ruling from FMCSA, and the news is good. The interim final rule states that " the Agency considers plants, including sod, flowers, ornamentals, seedlings, shrubs, live trees, and Christmas trees, within the scope of the definition." Pages 20-21. So there should be no grey area when growers utilize the Ag exemption for hours of service.

A link to the IFR can be found here: [Agricultural Commodity IFR](#). This rule will go into effect 15 days after it is published in the Federal Register. [Read More](#)

## Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Announces Inspection Fee

## Increases for 2021

Based on an increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Fiscal Year 2020, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development (the Commission) has approved increases to fees charged for nursery stock, Christmas tree, export, import, and other inspections. Hourly-based fees will increase from \$62 per hour to \$63 per hour. Acreage-based fees will increase from \$56 for the first acre to \$57 for the first acre. There will be no change to the current fee of \$34 for each additional acre. The fee increase will become effective January 1, 2021 and remain in effect until December 31, 2021.

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 requires MDARD to evaluate its inspection costs annually and authorizes increases of 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 (now Detroit-Warren-Dearborn) CPI over the previous one-year period, with the adjustment not to exceed 5%. Fee increases are subject to approval by the Commission.

The State Treasurer reported to MDARD a 1.5% increase in the CPI for Fiscal Year 2020. The Commission approved an increase to inspection fees, based on this 1.5% increase in the CPI, during its November 5, 2020 meeting.

## MDARD Urges Continued Vigilance After Dead Spotted Lanternfly Cases Identified in Michigan



*Freight carriers, warehouse workers, and delivery drivers should be on the lookout.*

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is asking freight carriers, warehouse workers and delivery drivers to be on the lookout for invasive Spotted lanternfly after the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed dead Spotted lanternfly insects were found in Michigan in recent weeks. While the specimens found were dead, these cases demonstrate one of the many ways this insect could find its way into the state. There is no evidence of established populations of Spotted lanternfly in Michigan. [Read More](#)

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Found in Ludington State Park

*From the Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources  
Bulletin dated 11/18/2020*

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently confirmed a new detection of invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at



Ludington State Park in Mason County. On Oct. 19th, a single Hemlock Woolly Adelgid adult and ovisac were found on a Hemlock tree branch in a wooded area off a trail near the west shore of Hamlin Lake. [Read More](#)

Photo courtesy of Steven Katovich,  
Bugwood.org

## 2021 GLTE Virtual Education Conference



*Promoting a healthy economic future through ideas, interaction and inspiration for all segments of Michigan's Green Industry!*

[www.GLTE.org](http://www.GLTE.org)

Save the dates - January 25-27, 2021 - when Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association's GLTE Education Conference goes virtual!

With more opportunities than ever for pesticide recertification credits and CEUs, more hours of industry-specific education and professional development classes, and our new Company Rate—this is an event your entire team won't want to miss!

Look for details on this exciting event early next week...

# Full Conference Sponsoring Firms

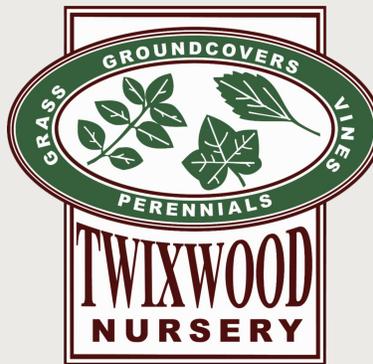
We give our appreciation to these firms that are supporting MNLA's GLTE Virtual Education Conference with a Full Conference Sponsorship:



Ray Wiegand's  
Nursery



administered by RPS Regency



Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association  
is Now Accepting Nominations for New  
Inductees into our Quarter-Century Club, 40-  
Year Club and Half-Century Club

## Qualifications

Candidates must have completed 25 years of Green Industry service to qualify for the Quarter-Century Club, 40 years of Green Industry service to qualify for the 40-Year Club, and 50 years of Green Industry service to qualify for the Half-Century Club. Candidates must have been employed by an MNLA member firm in the last five years of their career.

These tributes will be announced during the 2021 GLTE Virtual Education Conference, at the Green Industry Leadership

Meeting & Awards Presentations.

### Procedures

Please complete the “Century Club Application” and **return to the MNLA office by January 4, 2021**. The application will be reviewed and confirmation of acceptance will be forwarded to you prior to the 2021 GLTE Virtual Education Conference.

[Apply Here](#)

## Segment Community Meetings

MNLA invites you to a virtual gathering of our Segment Communities, **on December 17, 2020**. This will be an end-of-year check-in and update, featuring a short presentation on pertinent issues for your Green Industry segment, as well as a chance to ask questions, share knowledge and insight, and connect with your peers. Attend one or multiple segment sessions!

[Register to Attend one or multiple Segment Community discussions on December 17th.](#)

### Schedule:

#### **9:00-10:00a - Landscape Design/Build Segment Community**

*A Panel About Plants — What's new for next year and a discussion of potential plant shortages*

- Annuals - John Antonelli, Four Star
- Perennials - Chris Howe, Hortech
- Shrubs - Jane Beggs-Joles, Spring Meadow Nursery
- Trees - Bernie DeWit, Lincoln Nurseries

#### **10:00-11:00a - Garden Retail Segment Community**

*A COVID Christmas - Garden Retail for the 2020 Holiday Season*

- A Walk-through of Wiegand's Nursery for the Holidays - Erma Rhadigan, Ray Wiegand's Nursery

#### **11:00a-12:00p - Greenhouse and Nursery Grower Segment Community**

*Roundtable Discussion on the 2020 Season and a Look Ahead at the 2021 Season*

#### **1:00-2:00p - Irrigation Segment Community**

*Roundtable Discussion on the 2020 Season and a Look Ahead at the 2021 Season*

#### **2:00-3:00p - Landscape & Snow Management Segment Community**

*Salt Inventory and Alternatives*

- An outlook of the state of the salt inventory for the upcoming winter, as well as salt alternatives and when/how to best to use them - Zach Horning, Great Deal Products/Hot Pink Deicer

Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association  
517.381.0437  
[www.MNLA.org](http://www.MNLA.org)

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