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The **MAYFLOWER**

Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association

Growers of Quality Plants and Flowers

2006-2007

No. 4 of 6

President

Fred Dabney
794 Horseneck Road
S. Dartmouth, MA 02748
508.636.6931

Vice President

David Volante
226 Brookside Road
Needham, MA
781-444-2351

Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Luczai
8 Gould Road
Bedford, MA 01730
781.275.4811

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413.545.5306

Growth Regulators for Bedding Plants

by Dr. Douglas Cox, University of Massachusetts

Chemical plant growth retardants (PGRs) are very useful tools for controlling the height of bedding plants. Several other growth regulators are available to stimulate branching or to increase postharvest quality. This article outlines what chemicals are available for bedding plants, how they are applied, and some of the factors which affect the success of their use.

Causes of Too Tall Plants

Achieving desirable plant height involves considering why plants tend to be too tall before starting on a PGR program. A PGR may not be necessary if the problem can be corrected. There are number of reasons why bedding plants may get too tall. If the plants are started too soon or tall cultivars are chosen this will lead to over-grown plants. Transplanting to large volume packs or other containers may contribute to too large plants. Low light intensity, too close spacing of certain plants, and running much higher day than night temperatures are probably the most common reasons for too tall bedding plants. Plants that are shaded by old plastic, neighboring plants, or hanging baskets tend to stretch. Lack of ventilation on clear days and resulting heat will increase the difference between the day and night temperature and cause plants to grow taller. Some of the factors interact to encourage development of tall plants (e.g., low light and poor ventilation).

PGRs may be helpful in overcoming some of these problems, but too much reliance on PGRs is potentially costly in terms of material and labor. Also, because PGRs are treated as pesticides and have assigned re-entry intervals, frequent use of PGRs may disrupt other work in some greenhouse operations. Like pesticides, PGRs need to be used wisely and not as substitutes for good cultural practices.

Growth Retardants for Bedding Plants

Several new labels have been added for use on ornamental crops. Topflor is a new PGR compound. The other labels represent alternative sources of existing materials. Paczol contains the same active ingredient as Bonzi and Piccolo, Concise is identical to Sumagic, Dazide is identical to B-Nine and Chlormequat E-Pro is an identical formulation to Cycocel. Be aware that there are sometimes differences in label recommendations between identical products. Another relatively recent change in labels is that they may be used generally on all bedding plants rather than being limited to a few species specifically listed on the label.

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This is generally a positive development for the grower, but it requires the grower to take responsibility for trialing the material on species not listed on the label or in a local reference book. Table 1 lists the PGRs for bedding plants.

Chemical	Method	Activity	REI
A-Rest	Spray & drench	Low-moderate	12
B-Nine Dazide	Spray only	Low	24
Bonzi Paczol Piccolo	Spray & drench Spray, drench & pre-plant surface Spray & drench	High	12
Cycocel Chlormiquat E-Pro	Spray	Low	12
Sumagic Concise	Spray, drench, & pre-plant surface	High	12
Topflor	Spray & drench	Low-moderate	12

A foliar spray is the preferred method of applying PGRs to bedding plants in flats, but growth medium drench can be used on pots. Drench applications of B-Nine have no effect on plants and Cycocel drench is less effective than a foliar spray.

Sumagic and Concise can be applied as a pre-plant spray made to the surface of the growth medium. This may be a more efficient way of applying PGR. A-Rest and Bonzi can also be applied by subirrigation. The efficacy of applying PGRs by subirrigation needs more research before it can be widely recommended.

The term “activity” refers to the general sensitivity of plants to the PGR and the persistence of the growth inhibiting effect after application. The height of plants treated with low activity PGRs is not greatly affected by variations in the spray or drench volume. The persistence of the growth inhibiting effect after application is short (2-3 weeks). Plants are very sensitive to high activity PGRs. Small variations in spray or drench volume can have significant effects on height. The growth inhibiting effect after application, especially by drench, is very persistent. What this means to a grower is that the risk of undesirable side effects is much greater with Bonzi and Sumagic than A-Rest, B-Nine, or Cycocel. More attention to the details of rate, application volume, timing, and possible reapplication is required to successfully use high activity PGRs.

PGR Rates to Use

Choosing a rate (ppm) to apply starts with a check of the label for the recommended rate for the plant you wish to treat or a crop production manual such as the New England Floricultural Recommendation Guide. In the absence of a

specific recommendation the grower must run a trial. A trial should be replicated and consist of a small number of plants rather than whole crop. The general rates commonly used for plugs (Table 2) and flats or other containers (Table 3) are the starting point for a trial. It’s only common sense to test the lowest rates first, especially with Bonzi, Paczol, Piccolo, Concise and Sumagic.

Chemical	Spray rates (ppm) unless noted	Precautions
A-Rest	3-35	Use 5 ppm as a trial rate.
B-Nine Dazide	1500-2500	—
Bonzi Paczol Piccolo	1-20 1-20 spray, 5-30 media spray 2.5-5	NO on vinca & begonia. NO drench.
Cycocel Chlormiquat E-Pro	400-740	Low rate in north.
Sumagic Concise	0.5-10 0.5-10 spray & pre-plant soil surface spray	Plugs highly sensitive.
Topflor	1-8	NO on vinca, salvia, pansy and begonia. NO drench.

Applying PGRs

Normally PGRs are applied early in the growth of bedding plants and seedlings. Timing is related to stage of plant development and not weeks from seeding or transplanting. Timing can be fairly specific for some species, and the product label or other reference should be checked. In general, plugs are treated when they have developed their first set of true leaves. Young plants after transplanting are generally treated when they begin to grow or when they are 2" tall or 2" wide.

Table 3. PGR rates for bedding plant flats and containers		
Chemical	Rates & method (ppm)	Precautions
A-Rest	6-66, spray 1-2, drench	15 ppm for trial sprays.
B-Nine Dazide	1500-5000	Spray only.
Bonzi Paczol Piccolo	5-90, spray 0.5-1, drench	15 ppm for trial sprays in north. NO on vinca and begonia.
Cycocel Chlormiquat E-Pro	800-1500 spray	1250 ppm for trial. Higher rates may be needed.
Sumagic	1-50, spray, 0.5-20, preplant surface 0.1-2, drench	5-15 ppm for trial rate sprays. NO on begonias.
Topflor	0.5-80, spray 0.25-4, drench	

PGRs must be applied uniformly in order to cause uniform inhibition to plant growth. For bedding plants in flats PGRs are applied by foliar spray application; drench application can be used for bedding plants in pots and hanging baskets. Sprays should be applied on the basis of volume of spray (per area bench) to achieve uniform application (Table 4). Never use a “spreader-sticker” unless directed to by the label. Drench applications are made on the basis of an exact volume per pot to get a uniform effect. Actual drench volume depends on pot size (Table 5). Of course, more labor is required to make drench applications as compared to sprays.

Normally PGRs are applied during cloudy weather. The effectiveness of Cycocel and B-Nine sprays is increased when conditions favor slow evaporation. Plants to be sprayed should also be fully turgid when PGRs are applied (Cycocel injury is most common on water-stressed plants).

Table 4. PGR spray coverage rates.	
Chemical	Quarts/100 sq. ft.
A-Rest	2
B-Nine Dazide	2
Bonzi Paczol Piccolo	2-3
Cycocel Chlormiquat E-Pro	2-3
Sumagic Concise	2
Topflor	1-3

When drench applications are made the growth medium all pots to be treated should be at the same moisture level to get uniform results. Also, response to drench application is affected by the condition of the roots. A poor root system may limit the uptake of chemical. Extra care needs to be taken when drenching large containers like hanging baskets with more than one plant. Drench solution should be applied so each plant is treated equally and the resulting growth inhibition will be the same.

Table 5. Drench volume for PGRs.					
Drench volume (fl. oz./pot)					
Pot size	A-Rest	Bonzi Paczol Piccolo	Sumagic Concise	Cycocel Chlormi- quat E-Pro	Topflor
4-inch	2	2	—	3	2
6-inch	4	4	4	6	4
8-inch	10	10	—	8	10

Other Bedding Plant Growth Regulators

Materials are available to treat bedding plants for reasons other than height control.

Florel, Pistill Brand. This PGR is an ethylene-generating compound used to stimulate branching. Pistill can substitute for hand pinching ivy geranium, cutting geranium, lantana, verbena, and vinca vine. Apply 500 ppm at the normal time of pinching and at least 6-8 weeks before bloom.

Fascination and Fresco. These are new PGRs introduced to increase the postharvest quality of plants. The active ingredients are gibberellins and cytokinins which are known to increase cell length, increase cell division, and improve chlorophyll retention. They are both labeled for

preventing lower leaf yellowing and necrosis and delaying flower senescence on Easter lilies and other potted lilies. Fascination has an expanded label that covers usage on annuals, perennials and poinsettias.

Ethylbloc. This is another antiethylene compound which can prevent flower drop and leaf yellowing on bedding plants. The unique feature of this chemical is that it is applied as a gas to plants in an enclosed environment (e.g., tight greenhouse, special growth room, back of a truck). Quite a number of plants are listed on the Ethylbloc label including begonia, fuchsia, geranium, impatiens, salvia, and snapdragons. These species are quite sensitive to ethylene and often drop flowers or develop yellowed leaves during shipping.

Details about Ethylbloc and Fascination were discussed by Susan Han of Plant and Soil Sciences in issues of Floral Notes (May-June 2000 and January-February 2001, respectively).

References

Han, S.S. 2001. Fascination, a new product for preventing leaf yellowing in potted lilies. *Floral Notes*. 13(4):2. (January-February).

Han, S.S. 2000. Understanding ethylene and Ethylbloc. *Floral Notes*. 12(6):10-11. (May-June 2000).

Lopes, P. And L.B. Stack (eds.). 2007. *New England Floricultural Recommendations 2007-2008*. New England Floriculture, Inc.

McAvoy, R.J. 2001. PGRs for spring crops. *Yankee Grower*. 3(1):3-5.

www.ethylbloc.com (Ethylbloc)

www.montereylawngarden.com (Pistill)

www.olympichort.com (Cycocel)

www.sepro.com (A-Rest)

www.chemtura.com (B-Nine, Bonzi)

www.valent.com (Sumagic, Fascination)

<http://www.sepro.com> (Topflor)

<http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp> (general label search)

Annual "Love My Garden" Contest

This summer, residents across the state are invited to show just how much they love their home flower gardens, and why everyone else should too, by entering the Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association's second annual "Love My Garden" Contest. The contest, which runs from now until September 1, gives home gardeners across the state a chance to showcase their flower gardens and win one of many prizes including a \$500 gift certificate good at local independent retail garden centers and farm stands.

MFGA sponsors the "Love My Garden" Contest to highlight the beauty and joy that Massachusetts-grown plants and flowers bring to homes across the Commonwealth, and to remind residents of the importance and value of the Massachusetts agricultural industry. Last year's "Love My Garden" Contest garnered over 100 entries from 75 communities throughout Massachusetts and resulted in over \$1500 in garden center certificates being awarded to some of the state's most skilled amateur gardeners.

"Massachusetts floriculture is our state's largest agricultural industry," said Richard LeBlanc of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. "Our local growers produce some of the most exquisite and highest quality plants and flowers in the entire nation. It is essential that Massachusetts residents appreciate this wonderful resource and continue to support our local independent retail garden centers and farm stands."

The Massachusetts floriculture industry plays a significant part in the state's economy, with an estimated \$763 million generated from Massachusetts plant sales each year. In 2002, the Massachusetts floriculture industry was responsible for nearly 35 percent of Massachusetts agriculture cash receipts and paid more than \$161 million in taxes. There are currently more than 800 businesses offering Massachusetts-grown plants and flowers throughout the state.

The "Love My Garden" Contest emphasizes the happiness and pride that is derived from maintaining a flower garden, asking entrants to submit photos of their home flower garden for judging. Gardens will be judged on flower/plant variety (combined use of perennials and annuals preferred but not mandatory), design, overall appeal and the seasonal color and planting of the flower garden.

Entry forms and photos should be sent to: "Love My Garden" Contest, 156 Eighth Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. All entries must be received by September 1, 2007. Businesses, garden center employees and all members of the MFGA and their immediate families are ineligible for participation. Contestants must be 18 years of age or older. The Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association was established in 1947 for the promotion of the Massachusetts floriculture industry.

Annual MFGA Golf Tournament

August 7, 2007

Juniper Hill Golf Course
Northboro, MA

Interested in sponsoring this
event. Contact MFGA office at
781-275-4811

With over 200 members, the nonprofit is comprised of flower growers and associated tradesmen. The Association represents the state's commercial industry with leadership in the areas of legislation, promotion and education. For more information about the Association and a directory of where to find Massachusetts-grown plants and flowers, please visit www.massflowergrowers.com.

Contestants must submit two (2) photos (4 x 6 inches) of their home flower garden and a completed contest entry form, available at Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association (MFGA) member independent retail garden centers and farm stands and on line at www.massflowergrowers.com, to be eligible. This year regional winners will be chosen including flower gardens representing North, Southeast including Cape Cod and the Islands, Central and Western Massachusetts.

More about the Contest

Dear Mass Flower Growers' Association member:

First I want to thank you for your support of last year's successful MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest. Thanks to all MFGA members, last year's flower garden contest received over 100 entries from around the state and was covered by media statewide. Now it's time for the 2nd annual MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest, and we want to assist you in using this statewide event to help boost sales at your business.

The MFGA created this event to help build interest and enthusiasm among Massachusetts amateur gardeners to get out and shop at their local independent garden centers and farm stands (that means you!) and buy everything they need to create a winning garden.

The state-wide kickoff for the 2007 MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest is planned for May 8, 2007. Representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources will be featured speakers at the press events, along with representatives from your MFGA. We will be sending out press releases to media statewide and working with gardening clubs and gardening writers to get the widest possible coverage for the 2nd annual MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest. The MFGA web site (www.massflowergrowers.com) is featuring the "Love My Garden" contest and includes photos of last year's winners.

Please take advantage of everything that the MFGA is already planning to boost your sales by making the most of all the marketing opportunities that this popular state-wide garden contest offers you!

- Start by posting the new 2007 "Love My Garden" posters in a spot that is very visible and has a lot of foot-traffic (such as near the cash registers, near the exits and entrances, where people spend time waiting for mulch, etc.)

- Make sure the entry forms are visible and available at your check-out counters and at other spots around your farm stand or garden center.

Plan some special sale or event built around the "Love My Garden" contest theme, such as:

- Designate a "Love My Garden" week or weekend by including a snipe or headline about the contest in your current print advertising – Something as simple as "Enter the "Love My Garden" Contest here" can help drive people to visit and find out more.
- Feature a "Love My Garden" special sale item – a particular annual or perennial or plant – whatever you need to move.
- Have a how to "Love My Garden" advice day – Offer simple refreshments (cookies, bottled water, fruit, coffee) and make yourself or one of your gardening experts available to give garden advice on plantings, pruning, mulching, flower and plant selection, whatever you are comfortable with.
- Contact your local newspaper (weekly newspapers are usually more interested in local events) and send them the enclosed "Love My Garden" Contest press release to which you have added your business name, address and other information. The enclosed release shows just where to put your information.
- Include your special "Love My Garden" event(s) in your individual press release – your local paper may even send a photographer.
- Take your own photos during your "Love My Garden" Contest event(s) and include them with a brief photo caption that mentions the "Love My Garden" contest. Be sure to include your business address, hours & phone number.
- The "Love My Garden" contest runs from May 8 to September 1, 2007 and MFGA will continue to promote the contest in the media and through the website at www.massflowergrowers.com.

With your help, we look forward to this year's contest being even bigger, bolder and more productive than last year's. Please take advantage of the visibility and publicity that the MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest generates, and your business will benefit from more customers, more traffic and more sales. Don't we all love that! If you have any questions about the MFGA "Love My Garden" Contest, please feel free to call the MFGA office.

Sincerely,

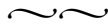
Bob Luczai

MFGA Scholarship in memory of Bill Randall

At as recent Board meeting the Directors of the Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association, decided unanimous, to name a scholarship to be awarded each year by the Association as the "Bill Randall Scholarship Award".

The scholarship will be awarded to a student interested in continuing his/her education in the field of horticulture. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who shows the work ethic, ambition and enthusiasm shown by Bill in building FAF Growers, Inc to be one of the most successful greenhouse businesses in Massachusetts.

MFGA will fund the scholarship, along with contributions solicited on behalf of Bill to support the Association scholarship program. If you are interested in contributing to the Bill Randall Scholarship Award, please contact the Association office. Contributors to the scholarship will be recognized.



Federal grants available for innovative on-farm energy efficiency projects in Massachusetts

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking proposals for projects to improve energy efficiency on Massachusetts farms. The projects will be funded through the agency's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program. This year, the grant specifically targets projects that include on-farm energy efficiency audits, audit processes and renewable energy alternatives.

Some \$192,000 in federal funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive grants process. Individual grants will not exceed \$75,000. CIG funds projects that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. The funding is contingent on Congressional action. Massachusetts government or non-government organizations or individuals may submit proposals for projects between one and three years in duration. Information on CIG project objectives, eligibility criteria and application instructions are available on-line at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig.

Proposals must be received in the NRCS Massachusetts State Office by 4:00 pm (Eastern) on May 10, 2007. Applications must be sent or delivered to: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Conservation Innovation Grants Program, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002-2995. To submit your application electronically, visit www.grants.gov, click on "Apply for Grants" and follow the instructions. The CDFR number for this grant application package is 10.912.

For more information on CIG in Massachusetts, contact Richard DeVergilio, State Resource Conservationist, 413- 253-4379, Rick.Devergilio@ma.usda.gov.

There is one CIG category available in FY 2007: Technology Category — Improved On-Farm Energy Efficiency. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) into NRCS technical manuals or guides, or to the private sector. CIG does not fund research projects. Instead, it is a vehicle to stimulate the development and adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success and to be candidates for eventual technology transfer.

CIG funds target innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. NRCS in Massachusetts will accept applications for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, submitted from eligible entities, including federally-recognized Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations and individuals. Applications will only be considered for projects within Massachusetts. Complete applications will be evaluated by a technical review panel and scored based on the Criteria for Proposal Evaluation described in the grant announcement. Scored applications will be forwarded to a Grants Review Board. The Grants Review Board will make recommendations for project approval to the State Conservationist. Final award selections will be made by the Massachusetts State Conservationist of NRCS.



VAPG Grant Application Process Starts with 30 Day Turnaround

The much-anticipated Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) is now available online at VAPG NOSA Fed Reg Notice.

Due to delays in the FY 07 budget process, the NOSA has been released much later than usual, and the window for application turnaround is significantly shorter this year. With a deadline of May 16, applicants will only have 30 days to write and submit their proposal. USDA's Rural Business Cooperative Service has important guidance on eligibility criteria and the application process online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm.

Created in the 2002 Farm Bill, the VAPG program provides planning or working capital grants to independent producers, agriculture producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and producer-controlled business ventures for projects promoting the production and marketing of

value-added agricultural products and the creation of farm-based renewable energy. Planning grants are eligible for up to \$100,000, and working capital grants for a maximum of \$300,000. Matching funds at least equal to the grant requested are required, and must be documented as available either cash or in-kind upon application submission. To be considered “value-added,” products must possess incremental value based on a change on the product’s physical state, a differentiated means of production, or product segregation. To meet the one-year project completion requirement, all applications must request funds for a time period beginning October 1, 2007 and ending November 30, 2008.



Letter From Reader!

I look forward to the publication of the Mayflower. It keeps me in touch with what’s happening in flower growing since I retired in 1981.

Being past president of the Massachusetts Flower Growers’ Association, the article concerning the Legal Status of Greenhouse Businesses in Massachusetts, caught my eye. The old laws defining agriculture in Massachusetts had nothing about floriculture.

When the new laws defining agriculture were being considered, the Massachusetts Flower Growers’ Association, the New England Carnation Growers Association, people at the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service working in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau were very active in getting flower growing and nurseries included in the present law “Chapter 128, Section 1A Farming, Agriculture, Farmers definitions.”

At the time I was General Manager of the Halifax Garden Company in Halifax, Massachusetts with a branch in Beverly Farms under the name of Orchidvale. This company was a member of the Mass Flower Growers’ Association, New England Carnation Growers’ Association and Farm Bureau. The most active member of the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension was Norman Butterfield at the Waltham Field Station. The Massachusetts Farm Bureau was very instrumental in writing the new definition and Mr. Carl Perkins was the Farm Bureau representative at the State Legislature in Boston. He was a real asset and very well respected on the Hill.

Sincerely,

John Duffy,
Fort Meyers, Florida
and Halifax, Massachusetts

FREE - Agricultural Chemical Collections for Massachusetts Producers of Agricultural Products

FREE collections of agricultural chemicals for Massachusetts producers of agricultural products are being sponsored by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, collaborating with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and Enviro-Safe Corporation. Dispose of no longer registered and unused agricultural chemicals while there is no cost to you!

In order to participate, participants will need to complete the DISPOSAL RESPONSE FORM and return it two weeks before the collection date.

Participate in any of the collections on the 2007 schedule of collections, but transport no more than 55 gallons or 440 pounds of product at one time. Information about accumulation, storage and transportation of hazardous materials is on our website capecodextension.org/agpest.

Contact Marilyn B. Lopes, Extension Educator, Water Quality, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, PO Box 367 Barnstable, MA 02630-0367. Phone: 508-375-6699 Cell: 774-487-8802; Fax: 508-362-4518; E-mail: mlopes@umext.umass.edu



New England Grows Announces Exciting New Format for 2008 - Enhanced show schedule with more networking opportunities

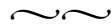
New England Grows, the Northeast’s largest Green industry exposition and educational conference, has announced an enhanced format for the 2008 show. Recently named the fastest growing association-sponsored show in the U.S. and Canada by *Tradeshaw Week* magazine, New England Grows 2008 will be held Wednesday, February 6 through Friday, February 8 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in Boston, Mass.

The new format includes an opening day devoted to New England Grows’ trademark educational program, including an exciting keynote address, and a brand-new networking reception on the tradeshow floor to launch the event on Wednesday afternoon. Extended exhibit hours on both Thursday and Friday, along with a streamlined educational program on those days, will enhance the experience for visitors and exhibitors alike.

New England Grows 2007 attracted a record-breaking crowd of more than 15,000 professionals from every segment of the Green Industry. The event’s steady growth has reflected the boom in New England’s environmental horticulture industry. Over a three-year period, the industry grew by 15 percent annually as measured by the most recent Economic Impact Study published by the University

of Vermont and University of Maine. At \$4.6 billion in value, it includes more than 10,500 firms that employ an estimated 148,000 people.

Exhibitors are encouraged to reserve space for the 2008 show early. New England Grows is committed to maintaining a visitor-to-exhibitor ratio that ensures maximum booth traffic and aisle density. As a result, there are a limited number of display booths available for New England Grows 2008. Exhibitors can also take advantage of additional sponsorship opportunities to spotlight participation before, during and after the event. For more details or to reserve exhibit space, please contact Diane Zinck, Exhibits Manager, at dzinck@negrows.org or 508-653-3009.



Massachusetts Flower Growers Association (MFGA) and Massachusetts Nursery Landscape Association (MNLA) Summer Field Meeting & Trade Show

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, Ma

Join Massachusetts' largest green industry associations - MFGA and MNLA - for their fourth annual collaborative event, the 2007 Summer Meeting and Trade Show on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. The day will feature:

- Featuring - Chris Beytes, Executive Editor of *Green Profit* Magazine and Editor of *GrowerTalks* Magazine on "National Trends for Growers, Retailers and Landscapers and How They Affect Your Business." Keeping up with current trends, whether it be organics, Generation X, the mass market or gardening vs. decorating will help you keep your business dynamic and relevant to your customers.
- Educational Programs
 - “Truly Successful Annuals for Growers, Landscapers and Garden Centers...and some not so successful” Lois Berg Stack, University of Maine. Lois coordinates the trial gardens at the University of Maine where unbiased evaluations are conducted on new cultivars.
 - Big Problems – What we should know for management of *White Rust*, *Daylily Rust*, *Hosta X virus*, *Lily Leaf Beetles*
 - Old, New, Tried and True Perennials for Retail Sales and Landscapes
- Tours of Tower Hills' beautiful gardens and grounds
- Trade Show and Pesticide Credits

Whether it is innovative exhibits, first-rate tours, or cutting edge education, all attendees are sure to enjoyed the days events.

MFGA/MNLA Field Day Annual Auction

The Annual Association Field Day an auction will be held on July 18th at the Annual Field Day to support the Association Scholarship Program.

MFGA members are asked to contact the Association office with items they wish to donate for the auction. Tickets to special events, vacation weekends and autographed items have been attractive items in past auctions. Members are also asked to participate in the auction at this years Field Day and support the Association Scholarship Program.



Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest Returns

Amateur photographers who enjoy capturing local rural scenes, farm animals and fresh produce are invited to enter the Massachusetts Agriculture Photo Contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Winning photos will be featured in the 2008 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar.

Twelve photos will be selected, one for each month. Photos will be selected that depict the diversity of agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources on the commonwealth's farms throughout the year. To view last year's winners, click on Calendar.

Get an entry form for the 2007 Calendar photo contest at http://www.mass.gov/agr/calendar_entry_2007.pdf

For Sale

Challenger wood chip fired hot water heating system. 2 MBtu output. Burns green chips, etc. Used one-plus heating season. Fully automatic system includes fuel storage bin, feed screw, vertical tube heat exchanger, combustion air blowers, auto ash removal, induction fan, dust collector, and complete control panel. \$120K new, selling for \$100K, FOB Stow. Available now.

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978-568-1189. Extensive operational
assisstance provided at no charge.**