

Ohio Floriculture & Nursery Conference 2024

October 17, 2024

All times are in Eastern US Standard Time (EST)

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex | 2515 Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210

8:15 – 8:30 AM Welcome and Introductions
Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University

8:30 – 9:15 AM Invited Keynote Speaker
Don't Take Turns, Make Turns! Top Tips for Finishing Annuals Efficiently
Dr. Christopher Currey, Iowa State University

Maximizing quality and minimizing bench time are the goals for many annual bedding plant producers. However, this can be a challenge in the spring with greenhouses filled with such a wide variety of crops. From scheduling crops and choosing young plants, to managing light, temperature, and growth regulation, this session will cover tips on how to finish quality annuals- quickly.

9:15 – 9:45 AM Optimizing Daily Light Integral for Boston Fern Production
Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University

Understanding crop production parameters is important to produce healthy and ideal market sized plants. In this presentation, learn about how to optimize the daily light integral to maximize Boston and Australian swordfern growth and marketable quality.

9:45 – 10:00 AM Break
Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)

10:00 – 10:30 AM D.C. Kiplinger Floriculture Endowed Chair Keynote Presentation
Identifying Novel Plant Growth Promoting Bacteria to Reduce Fertilizer Applications During Floriculture Crop Production
Dr. Michelle Jones, The Ohio State University

Many biostimulants that contain plant growth promoting bacteria do not work well on the vast number of floriculture species grown in controlled environments and soilless culture. The DC Kiplinger Floriculture Crop Improvement Program has a novel collection of bacteria that was isolated from the rhizosphere of floriculture crops produced in commercial greenhouses in Ohio. We are using this collection to identify bacteria that can be used to help plants take up fertilizer nutrients more efficiently and reduce nutrient losses due to leaching.

10:30 – 11:00 AM Ethephon Drenches: New Option for Dialing In Annuals and Perennials
Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University

Open up that PGR toolbox, there is a cost-effective new option available to customize growth with ethephon drenches. Research results confirm its effectiveness across a wide array of floriculture species and now it is legally registered for use. Find out more about ways to expand your PGR toolbox with ethephon substrate drenches.

11:00 – 12:00 PM Identification and Management of Common Diseases of Ornamental Plants in Greenhouse and Nursery Production
Dr. Francesca Peduto Hand, The Ohio State University

Plant diseases can be major challenges to ornamental plant production. This presentation will help growers recognize common symptoms and signs of disease and will provide information on best practices to prevent pathogen spread and control infections.

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- 12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch & Sponsor Presentations**
Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)
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- 1:00 – 1:30 PM A Sampler on Sampling: How to Collect and Submit Samples to Diagnostic Laboratories**
Dr. Francesca Rotondo, The Ohio State University, C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic
- Growers will learn how to diagnose common plant problems by properly sampling irrigation water, plant leaf tissue, substrate, and insect and disease presence. Be prepared to stop guessing and start confirming this growing season.*
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- 1:30 – 2:15 PM Invited Keynote Speaker**
Fertilizing Annuals: Designing a Plan for Success
Dr. Christopher Currey, Iowa State University
- Sometimes fertilizing crops can be a challenge, and nowhere is this more true than in the spring when greenhouses are filled with dozens of different cultivars and species. This presentation will focus on developing fertilization strategies for annuals that will produce healthy, appropriately sized plant on time that minimize excessive fertilizer use and waste.*
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- 2:15 – 2:45 PM Managing Water to Ensure Profitable Production in to the Future**
Dr. Jim Owen, USDA-ARS Applied Technology Research Unit
- Dr. Owen will discuss freshwater security, irrigation scheduling, substrate water storage, and on-site and off-site water quality.*
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- 2:45 – 3:00 PM Break**
Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)
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- 3:00 – 3:30 PM Establishing and Maintaining Rootzone pH in Container Substrates**
Dr. James Altland, USDA-ARS Applied Technology Research Unit
- This presentation will cover how to determine the lime rate for establishing the correct pH in container crops. It will also discuss how crop management and other factors affects pH throughout the production cycle.*
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- 3:30 – 4:00 PM In-house Nutritional Monitoring of Containerized Greenhouse and Nursery Crops**
Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University
- In-house monitoring of substrate pH and electrical conductivity (EC) is essential for understanding the nutritional status of containerized crops. This presentation will provide an overview of pH and EC nutritional disorders and demonstrate the PourThru method so you will be prepared to stop guessing and start confirming during the spring growing season.*
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- 4:00 – 4:30 PM Gearing Up for Spring: A Greenhouse, Nursery, and Garden Center Check List**
Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff, The Ohio State University
- Explore essential operational checklists for production and operational teams, ensuring a seamless and efficient workflow as your business approaches the bustling spring season. This presentation will rejuvenate your approach, maximize productivity, and capitalize on the upcoming spring demand.*
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- 4:30 – 4:45 PM Closing Remarks**
Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University
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- 4:45 – 5:00 PM Tour Preparation (In-Person Participants)**
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- 5:00 – 6:00 PM CEARC Tour (In-Person Participants)**
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