



MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION E-NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

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

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Be part of the community shaping the future of perennials.

Join the Perennial Plant Association's National Symposium to deepen your perennial plant know-how, connect with fellow horticulture professionals, and explore the latest insights. Don't miss out – register today!
July 27 - 30, 2026 | East Lansing, Michigan



PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

Update on MDARD's Proposed Action on Additions to Michigan's Prohibited and Restricted Plant Lists



We continue to wait for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) to make a decision on their proposed additions of plants to Michigan's Prohibited and Restricted Plant lists. As we've indicated in previous reports, our concerns are with the assessments performed on the straight species and with the inclusion of all cultivars, none of which have been assessed for invasiveness.

As soon as a decision is published the MNL Board of Directors will assess and determine next steps and we will get this out to you.

As a reminder, this is the proposal that MDARD presented to the Commission of Agriculture on March 18, 2026 and includes all cultivars:

- Sec. 41301(1)(k): “Prohibited species,” subject to section 41302:
 - Water-hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
 - Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
- Sec. 41301(1)(o): “Restricted species”, subject to section 41302:
 - Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
 - Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
 - Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
 - Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

If the decision is made to add these plants and their cultivars, for the prohibited species the prohibition will begin 30 days after this order is signed.

For restricted species, sale and cultivation of these species will be allowed in 2026 and 2027. Restriction of these species begins January 1, 2028.

Update on OSHA's National Emphasis Program to Protect Workers from Indoor and Outdoor Heat Hazards

– From RPS Regency



On April 10, 2026, OSHA updated its National Emphasis Program (NEP) to protect workers from outdoor and indoor heat-related hazards, directing agency resources to areas where they can have the greatest impact by focusing inspections and outreach on industries and workplaces with the highest risk of heat stress. The updated NEP is effective immediately and will remain in place until April 10, 2031. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Update on Open & Obvious Legislation

House Bill 4582 (Rep. Neyer), which would reinstate Michigan's "open and obvious" doctrine, passed the State House 58-48 at the end of March.

As previously reported, back in 2023 Michigan's Supreme Court issued a ruling that eliminated this long standing open and obvious doctrine, establishing a new standard where a landowner carries liability even for conditions that are open and obvious. Many business and landowners around the state have voiced major concern with this strict and costly standard. Under HB 4582, a property owner or possessor would have a duty to use ordinary care to protect others from unreasonable risks of harm that the owner/possessor knew or should have known about; they would not be liable for open and obvious conditions on the premises.

Because the bill passed the House, it is now over in the Senate and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection. If you support HB 4582, please reach out to your local Senator and to the Committee's Chair, Senator Mary Cavanagh.

***Alert!* Michigan Department of
Treasury Acknowledges Notices
Issued in Error**

– From Yeo & Yeo

Incorrect underpayment notices – On April 23, the Michigan Department of Treasury acknowledged that thousands of taxpayers are receiving underpayment notices in error. Many taxpayers who made 2025 estimated tax payments to the State of Michigan were not properly credited for those payments, and therefore received a notice from the state that reflected an underpayment of tax equal to the amount of estimated tax they had already paid.

The Treasury Department confirms that the issue was limited to the letters themselves, not to the underlying tax records. They are working to correct the system error and will issue revised notices once resolved. At this time, **no action or response is required** from taxpayers who received these incorrect letters.

Erroneous refund checks for penalties and interest – A separate issue has also been identified. Some taxpayers who appropriately reported an underpayment penalty and interest with their return are now receiving refund checks from the State of Michigan in the amount of the penalty and interest.

The Michigan Department of Treasury is asking taxpayers not to cash these checks. Instead, taxpayers should return the uncashed check along with a brief explanation of why the check is being returned to:

Michigan Department of Treasury
P.O. Box 30788
Lansing, MI 48909

Next steps

If you receive any correspondence from the State of Michigan, we encourage you to forward it to your tax professional to evaluate whether the notice was received in error or not and to help with the next steps.



New! Tax on Services

– *Excerpt from MI Chamber of Commerce, Advocacy News*

April 23, 2026 –

What's happening: House Republicans introduced legislation advancing the Speaker's property tax reform plan – paired with a new tax on services.

Why it matters: House Bills 5872-80 would make sweeping changes to Michigan's tax structure:

- Eliminate the state's six-mill property tax
- Repeal the personal property tax and real estate transfer tax
- Require at least \$1 billion in annual utility rate rollbacks
- To offset costs and keep the "revenue neutral": impose a new 6% tax on services

Of note: Earlier signals and comments from the Speaker suggested a limited service tax that excluded business-to-business activity. However, the introduced legislation applies broadly to all services – with no defined limits or exclusions, including on B2B services.

Historical context: Michigan attempted a similar broad service tax in 2007 under former Gov. Jennifer Granholm. It was repealed within 17 hours due to widespread economic concerns.

Bottom line: Property tax relief is an important and worthy goal. But how it's achieved matters. A broad new tax on services risks creating new cost pressures across Michigan's economy.

From the MNLA: This proposed new tax is against our legislative priorities and should the bill move as introduced, we are prepared and ready to oppose.



MNLA's Community Landscape Beautification Awards Program: Deadline July 1, 2026

The "Community Landscape Beautification Awards Program" recognizes outstanding communities for their excellence in improving the physical and aesthetic environment of their neighborhoods, and in raising the awareness of the positive economic growth and environmental impacts that quality landscaping brings to Michigan's communities. These projects are designed to enhance the visual image of the neighborhoods, improve livability, build civic pride and promote community spirit.

To be eligible for a Community Landscape Beautification Award, the project must be a Non-Residential Landscape in a Community setting, readily visible from the street and meet the standards and entry rules as set forth by MNLA. Any Public Project is Eligible (parks, downtown streetscapes, gateway projects, etc.). Any Public Facility is Eligible (schools, University campuses, libraries, hospitals, etc.).

If you have worked on a community project or have an active Garden Club in your Community, please pass this on to them. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) to submit your Application online.

The deadline to apply is July 1, 2026.

(Photo above: Award winner "Monet Garden of Muskegon")



2027 Great Lakes Trade Exposition – Save the Date and Reserve your Booth Space Now!

We are pleased to announce the dates and location of the Green Industry's oldest, largest, and most respected show of its kind in Michigan. The 104th Great Lakes Trade Expo (GLTE) is being held January 19-21, 2027 at the DeVos Place and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI!

The 2027 GLTE is a Tuesday through Thursday event with a two-day trade show and three days of classroom and hands-on education. The GLTE Experience Team is developing the education conference and trade show and more details will be coming soon. Exhibitor and Sponsorship information is now available by going to www.GLTE.org.

Please help us thank the 2026 GLTE Exhibitors and Sponsors by purchasing from them throughout the year! Click [HERE](#) to see the list of 2026 GLTE Exhibitors and [HERE](#) to see our Sponsoring Firms.



Professional Women in Horticulture



The Professional Women in Horticulture group held their first meeting last month. For those who were unable to attend but are still interested in receiving information about the group, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Also be sure to join the [Facebook page](#)!



Upcoming Education & Events

JULY 2026

July 23, 2026: Turf and Landscape Diagnostic Tour at Applewood Estate, Flint, MI. MDARD recertification credits (applied for): 2 CEUs in 3A, 3B, or 6. [REGISTER HERE](#) or email Emily for information: Emily@MNLA.org.

July 29, 2026: U.P. Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education & Skills Training in Marquette, MI. This year's program will have a hands-on sprayer and spreader calibration workshop; a diagnostic walking tour of the turfgrass and landscape of Northern Michigan University's campus, updates on U.P. invasive vegetation and a MDARD mock spray vehicle roadside inspection. MDARD recertification credits (applied for): 8 CEUs in Commercial Core, Private Core, 2, 3A, 3B or 6. [REGISTER HERE](#) or email Emily for information: Emily@MNLA.org.

AUGUST 2026

August 12 & 19, 2026: Elite Crew Training in East Lansing, MI. Two consecutive Wednesdays of hands-on training for landscape crew members. Email Emily for information: Emily@MNLA.org.

August 13, 2026: MNLA's 36th Annual Golf Classic

Mark your calendar for this summer's Annual Golf Classic! This year's event will once again take place at PohlCat Golf Course, located at 6595 E. Airport Rd. in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Don't forget—100% of the proceeds support the MNLA Scholarship Fund. Last year alone, 11 scholarships were awarded, helping to make a meaningful impact in the lives of students pursuing careers in the Green Industry. For more information contact Becky at (517) 381-0437 or email Becky@MNLA.org.

August 28, 2026: Landscape Design Tour in Detroit, MI. Join your peers for a creative and inspirational day of tours featuring residential, commercial, and public landscapes in the Metro Detroit area. Email Emily for information: Emily@MNLA.org.

OCTOBER 2026

October 8, 2026: 10th Annual Green Industry Chapter Sporting Clays Competition and Meet & Greet, Brighton, MI, *Sponsored by Southeast MI Nursery & Landscape Association and Unilock Michigan.* Registration information will be sent out soon. Email Amy for information: Amy@MNLA.org.

Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
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Connect with us



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