
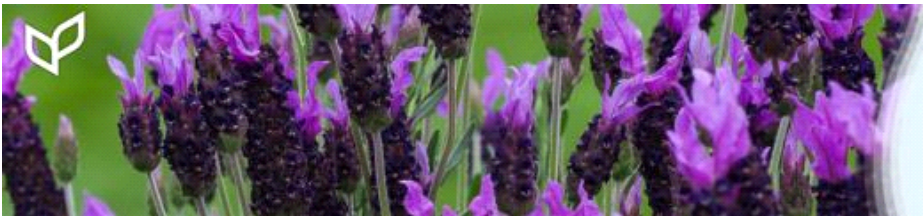


Pre-sprouting Anemone & Ranunculus; MSU's Trial Gardens & Online Training





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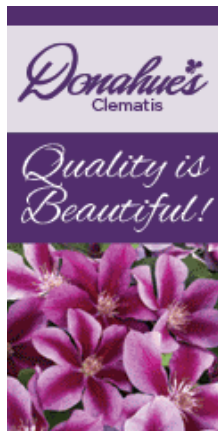
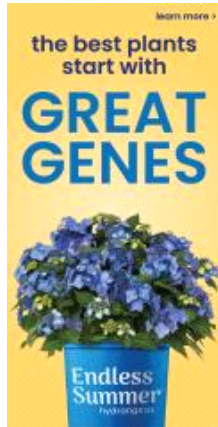
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News and commentary for the perennial market





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MSU Trial Gardens
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Perennial PULSE

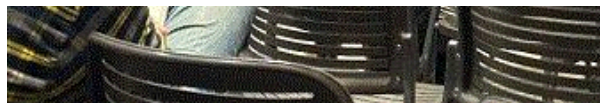
News and commentary on the global perennial plant market



Bloom Beat Live

I had the opportunity to attend Ball Publishing's *Bloom Beat* newsletter Editor-at-Large Lindsay Daschner's presentation at the Great Lakes Expo in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last week. This was the first time I met Lindsay in person and she is an absolute rock star. (Or should I say flower star since I don't know if she sings or plays any instruments?)





Lindsay owns a small cut flower farm ([Forget Me Not Farms](#)) in Ottawa Lake, Michigan. She gave a wonderful presentation on “Producing High-Quality Anemone and Ranunculus in Michigan.”

Like many things in life, growing plants can be fun and rewarding, but Lindsay showed us how successfully growing cut flower anemone and ranunculus can come with a few challenges, but offered several tips and guidelines to make these crops both fun and profitable. Here's a just a snippet of the information Lindsay presented.

Pre-sprouting Anemone & Ranunculus

- Soak for four to eight hours
- Preventative fungicide treatment during the last 15 minutes of the soak
- Cooling treatment: 40F (4C) for seven to 10 days in mesh bags
- **Anemone:** After the cooling stage, scatter corms in an open flat and cover with an inch or so of growing mix. Many sources suggest placing the corms pointy side down, but Lindsay says they'll sprout well even when they're placed on their sides.
- **Ranunculus:** After cooling, place the corms with the fingers pointed down. 50-cell or larger sized plugs work well. Cover them with an inch or so of growing mix.
- Once the corms begin showing a few roots, they can be kept in the trays until they're more mature or planted directly into the finishing beds.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the great information Lindsay shared. Unfortunately, Tater (Lindsay's four legged companion and co-owner) couldn't make the trip, but perhaps I'll meet him in person someday.



MSU Trial Gardens

Besides attending Lindsay's presentation, I spent most of the two days I was there partaking in the great educational sessions the Great Lakes Expo offered. One of them was the “Best-Performing Plants in the 2023 Michigan Garden Plant Tour” session. In this presentation, each of the trial locations (MSU Trial Garden, DGI Propagators, Four Star Greenhouse, Mast Young Plants, Raker-Roberta's Young Plants and Walters Gardens) shared highlights of their 2023 trials.

The trial sites had hundreds of flowering annuals and herbaceous perennials on display. Below are few of the perennials that stood out in the [MSU trial gardens](#) this summer.

Agastache Meant to Bee Royal Raspberry Echinacea Artisan Red Ombre



Walters Gardens

Phlox Luminary Backlight



Kieft Seed

Rudbeckia Goldblitz



Walters Gardens



Kieft Seed

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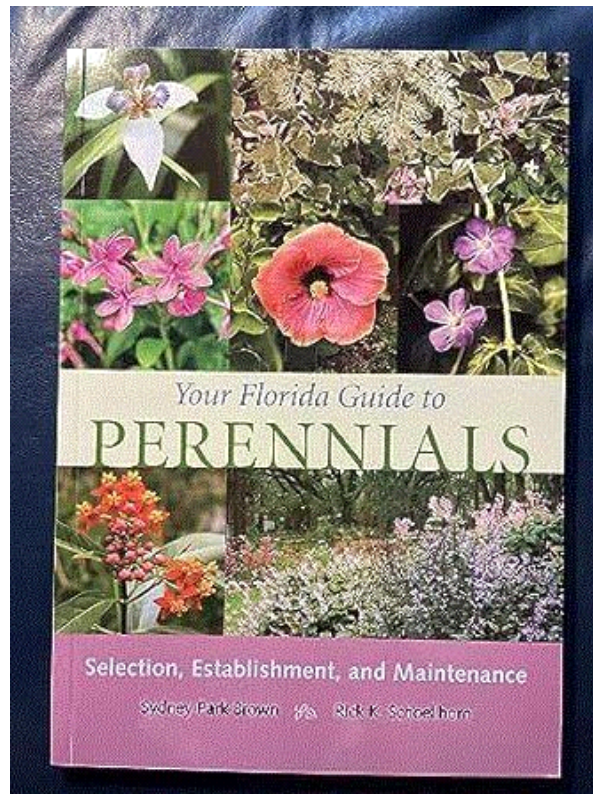
I was saddened to learn about the passing of another industry icon. After battling lung cancer for two years, Rick Schoellhorn passed away on November 25. Rick was an incredible person. You've likely heard him give a lively presentation, read one of his trade articles or may have been lucky enough to know him over the years. I knew Rick and can't possibly tell you how awesome a person he was.



Rick left us too soon at the young age of 66, however, he lived a life full of passion and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with the industry. His interest and love for plants began at a young age. He obtained a BS in Horticulture from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida where he became a professor.

During his time at UF, Rick became a well-known garden consultant, author, speaker, television host and community volunteer. After a decade in academia, he joined Proven Winners as Director of New Products where he continued to do what he truly loved: sharing his love and knowledge of horticulture with professional colleagues, plant breeders and growers across the world.

He was semi-retired, but continued writing and doing social media work for Proven Winners. Rick also enjoyed spending time cultivating begonias and was working on interviewing begonia breeders for a book on the history of begonia cultivation.



Speaking of books, did you know that Rick co-authored a perennial book? "[Your Florida Guide to Perennials: Selection, Establishment, and Maintenance](#)" is a paperback book published back in 2006.

Rick, thank you for sharing your passion for plants with the world and for being such a positive individual. Though you have left us, your legacy will remain forever. Rest peacefully, my friend.



MSU's Online Learning Programs—Last Call!

Michigan State University is offering two opportunities to earn educational certificates through its upcoming online learning programs.

College of Knowledge

MSU Extension offers its award-winning online College of Knowledge training program once yearly during the winter months. The self-paced, pre-recorded courses are being offered December 1, 2023 through March 15, 2024 this year.

Visit [MSU's College of Knowledge](#) website for complete descriptions of the courses and for registration links. Each course is \$129.

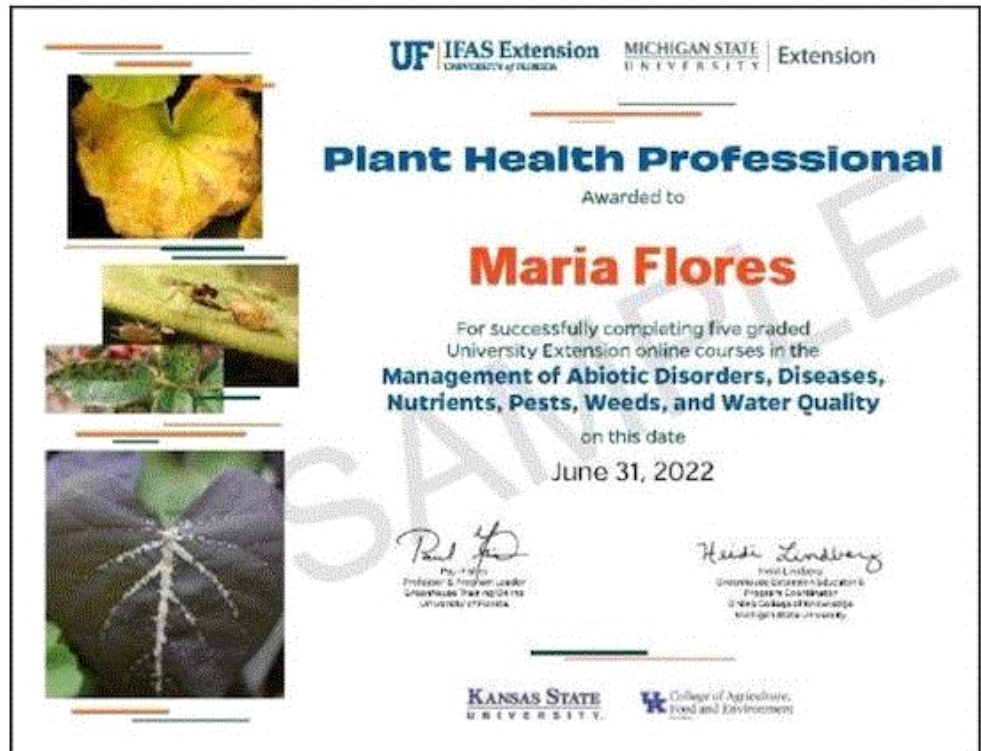
Plant Health Professional Certificate

The second opportunity to earn educational certificates from MSU is through its joint Plant Health Professional Certificate program. MSU has teamed up with the University of Florida and several other leading universities to offer a new qualification in plant health management for greenhouse and nursery growers.

Growers must pass five of six courses, which include:

- [Nutrient management 1](#) (UF)
- [Disease management](#) (UF)
- [Weed management](#) (UF)
- Water quality and treatment (UF) - *Coming in 2024*
- [Abiotic disorders](#) (MSU/University of Kentucky)
- [Biological control](#) (MSU/Kansas State University)

Upon successful completion of five of these courses, students will receive a certificate of completion from University Extension to recognize their training skills and dedication as a Plant Health Professional. The certificates are a great way to help build your résumé and grow your career.



How to enroll:

Growers can sign up for the individual courses through the UF (hort.ifas.ufl.edu/training) and MSU (canr.msu.edu/online-college-of-knowledge) websites. After successfully completing five courses, email greenhousetraining@ifas.ufl.edu to obtain the certificate of completion at an annual graduation ceremony.

Thanks for reading this edition of *Perennial Pulse*. My email is paul@opelgrowers.com if you have any comments, article suggestions or if you'd just like to say hello.

Best regards,



Paul Pilon

Editor-at-Large—*Perennial Pulse*

Director of Growing—Opel Growers

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