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MNLA and MFGA Summer Conference & Trade Show - Pre-registration rates end this Saturday July 20 - Register Now and SAVE!

Conference Next Thursday, July 25, 2013 - 8:00 am to 2:30pm - Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

Join Massachusetts' largest green industry associations - MFGA and MNLA - and UMass Extension for their annual collaborative event, the 2013 Summer Conference and Trade Show on Thursday, July 25. Take advantage of the newest ideas and cutting edge information, tours of Tower Hill Botanic Garden, trade show, networking and great food!

REGISTER NOW! <http://www.mnla.com/events/?ee=8>

Featured Keynote - Climate Change and Implications for Massachusetts Horticulture

Dr. Bethany Bradley, Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts

PLUS...many exciting sessions to choose from and vendors to see! For more details, download the [Summer Conference Flyer](#).

- Making Sense of Soil Tests for Landscapes, Nurseries and Greenhouses
- Conserving Pollinators in our Horticulture Businesses
- New Annual Plants and How to Use them in the Landscape
- Sustainable Water Management Initiative
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Resistant Hemlocks
- Fertilizers: BMPs and Pending Regulations
- Risk Management Tools for Nurseries
- IPM Walkabout: Insects, Diseases and Weeds
- Tours of Tower Hill Botanic Garden (Edible landscapes, Cary Awards, Perennials and more)

Sponsored by: The Massachusetts Nursery Landscape Association (MNLA), Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association (MFGA) and University of Massachusetts Extension (UMass)

Notice of Public Hearing and Public Comment Period - MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

MassDEP, acting in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, will hold public hearings on two sets of regulations: 1) proposed amendments to the waste ban regulations at 310 CMR 19.017 and related provisions in 310 CMR 19.000. The proposed amendments would add “commercial organic material” to the list of materials banned from disposal in 310 CMR 19.017, effective July 1, 2014. As defined, this would include food material and vegetative material from entities (excluding residences) that dispose of one ton or more of that material per week; and 2) proposed amendments to the hazardous waste regulations at 310 CMR 30.708 that would prohibit hazardous waste facilities from being located either within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), or adjacent to or in close proximity to an ACEC, where such location would fail to protect the outstanding resources of the ACEC.

As provided by state law, M.G.L. 30A, the Department publishes a notice at least 21 days prior to a public hearing on proposed amendments. The hearings will be held in accordance with the procedures of M.G.L. Chapter 30A. The Background Document, Proposed Amendments, and supporting guidance for both proposed regulations are available on the MassDEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/comment/>.

In addition, these documents can be obtained for review by interested parties at MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, as well as in each of the four MassDEP regional service centers. In addition, although MassDEP is not required to seek public comment on guidance and the guidance is not part of the proposed amendments to 310 CMR 19.000, the department is also making the draft waste ban guidance document for solid waste facilities and guidance for waste haulers and generators available for review and comment, along with those proposed amendments, for the information and convenience of the public and regulated entities. MassDEP is issuing this draft revised solid waste facility guidance in redline format to highlight the changes from the existing guidance. The guidance will assist the public and regulated entities in understanding how Mass DEP intends to implement the proposed regulatory amendments. MassDEP will accept informal comments on the draft guidance.

Public hearings on both proposed regulations will be held:

- Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 10:00 am - MassDEP Headquarters - One Winter Street, 2nd Floor, Boston
- Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at 4:00 pm - MassDEP Southeast Regional Office - 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville
- Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 10:00 am - MassDEP Western Regional Office - 436 Dwight Street, Room B42, Springfield, MA
- Monday, August 12, 2013 at 4:00 pm - MassDEP Central Region Office - 627 Main Street, Worcester

Two additional hearings will be held only on the proposed amendments to the hazardous waste regulations at 310 CMR 30.708:

Thursday, August 1, at 10:00 am **and** at 3:00 pm - Lenox Library Gallery, 18 Main Street, Lenox, MA

Comments on the draft regulations and guidance should be sent via email to John.Fischer@state.ma.us or in hard copy to John Fischer, MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108. **MassDEP will accept comments until 5:00 PM on Friday, August 23, 2013.** For special accommodations for the hearings, contact Donald M. Gomes, MassDEP ADA Coordinator, at 617-556-1057, TDD Service 1-800-298-2207, One Winter St. Boston, MA 02108. This information is available in alternative format upon request.

Save the Trees – Spot their Enemies

August is Tree Check Month, so be on the lookout for invasive forest pests in your parks, schools, urban forests, and where you live!

August 2013 marks the 5th anniversary of the discovery of Asian Longhorned Beetle in Massachusetts. Since that fateful day in 2008, more than 30,000 hardwood trees have been removed because of this invasive pest. Recently, another wood-boring beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, was found in Berkshire County, and now threatens millions of Ash trees in our state. Join your fellow citizens during the month of August and check your trees for signs of damage caused by Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, and learn to recognize the beetles themselves. For more detailed information, visit <http://massnrc.org/pests/blog/> or contact Stacy Kilb, ALB Outreach Coordinator at Stacy.Kilb@state.ma.us or 617-626-1764.

Harvest of the Month & Mass. Harvest for Students Week

The goal of Mass. Farm to School Project's Massachusetts Harvest of the Month and Harvest for Students Week campaigns is to encourage healthy food choices by increasing students' exposure to seasonal fruits and vegetables while also supporting local farmers and building excitement about school lunches.

[Harvest of the Month](#) promotes a different Massachusetts-grown crop each month in school cafeterias across the state, from September 2013 through February 2014. [Harvest for Students Week](#) (September 30 – October 4, 2013) is a highlight in this ongoing campaign and kicks off [National Farm to School Month](#) (October).

Both campaigns provide wonderful opportunities for collaboration among school food and nutrition staff, educators, school administrators, parents and students, and for celebrating your commitment to serving local foods with local press and legislators.

For both campaigns, Mass. Farm to School Project will:

- provide free, individualized technical assistance sourcing the Harvest of the Month crops from local farms;
- mail free materials for display and distribution in each participating cafeteria (including posters, trading cards and stickers for each featured crop);
- provide free promotional materials for your use, including press release templates, monthly newsletter text, and monthly recipe cards;
- provide participating schools with links to resources that connect the cafeteria campaign to the classroom and community environment. These resources include curriculum and classroom activities, home-scale recipes and nutrition information.

It's easy to sign up! Just visit www.massfarmtoschool.org/programs/harvest-of-the-month/ to find the Harvest of the Month Participation Agreement and an order form for your free materials. There, you can also let Mass. Farm to School know how you plan to participate in Harvest for Students Week!

Twilight Barn Meeting and BBQ

Thursday August 15, 2013 - 5:30 – 9 pm - Carter and Stevens Farm - 500 West Street, Barre, MA. Hosted by: Phil Stevens

Includes:

- Barn visit and look at new developments on farm, including sliding bedded pack, double 10 parallel parlor, covered manure pit, renewable energy (windmill and solar)

- Agricultural Learning Center and its role in enhancing undergraduate education of Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Dr. Stephen Herbert. UMass.
- Updates on UMass soil testing lab and revised nutrient recommendations. Dr. John Spargo. UMass.
- Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) - Gerry Palano – Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources.
- Dairy Legislations Updates. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
- Research Updates. Dr. Masoud Hashemi - UMass Extension
- USDA and State Agency Updates

Details at <http://extension.umass.edu/cdle/events/twilight-barn-meeting-and-bbq> For question, contact Masoud Hashemi at 413-545-1843, masoud@umass.edu or Madeline Magin at 413-545-5221, madelinemagin@gmail.com.

New England Made Giftware & Specialty Food Shows Seeks Vendors

The New England Made Giftware & Specialty Food Shows feature manufacturers of unique, quality New England made products. These juried wholesale shows include home décor, pottery, apparel, accessories, jewelry, toys & games, candles, books, cards & prints, glassware, bath & body products, furniture, spices, candy, sauces, gourmet mixes, baked goods and other specialty food items. Each year the shows attract thousands of national and international buyers who expect the highest quality New England made products. Sturbridge, Massachusetts (Sept. 8-9, 2013). For more information, please visit www.nemadeshows.com.

Permaculture Design Course

Permaculture FEAST, for ecological & social transformation, a weekend certificate course in permaculture design with Lisa DePiano, Jonathan Bates, & Friends. September - December 2013, Holyoke, MA. Be a part of a global movement to regenerate our communities and create the world we want to live in. Early bird discount saves you \$250. Register now at www.permaculturefeast.org.

Insured Producers in Massachusetts to Receive Premium Reduction

Agricultural producers in Massachusetts who purchased a 2013 Federal Crop Insurance “Buy-Up” policy will be receiving a fixed premium reduction of up to \$225.00 per eligible crop policy. Section 524(b), Agricultural Management Assistance, of the Federal Crop Insurance Act provides for the premium reductions in 16 states including Massachusetts. The premium reductions will not apply to catastrophic risk protection policies or any policies insured under the Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy program. \$5,694,000 is available to eligible insureds in the 16 states and if estimated premium reductions exceed that amount; the \$225.00 per crop policy will be reduced on a pro-ratio basis. If the total producer-paid premium is less than \$225.00, the amount of the premium reduction will be capped at 100 percent of the producer-paid premium for the crop policy.

Insured producers do not have to file an application to receive the premium reduction. The premium reduction will be applied automatically to all eligible crop policies. The amount of the premium reduction will be deducted from the producer premium on their individual billing statement or it will be noted on the billing statement that the premium reduction will be issued as a refund.

The University of Massachusetts (UMass) Extension Risk Management/Crop Insurance Education Program calculates that the premium reductions for Massachusetts insureds could potentially reach \$119,925 on a total of 533 policies eligible for the premium reduction.

For the 2013 crop year, a total of 633 Federal Crop Insurance policies were sold to Massachusetts agricultural producers providing over \$48.7 million in protection for their agricultural operations.

The UMass Extension Risk Management/Crop Insurance Education Program works in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to educate Massachusetts producers about Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management Programs. For more information, please visit www.rma.usda.gov or contact UMass Risk Management Specialists Paul Russell at pmrrussell@umext.umass.edu or Tom Smiarowski at tsmiarowski@umext.umass.edu.

Crop Loss Reminder

Growers experiencing crop losses due to excessive rain and/or heat should contact their crop insurance agent. USDA crop insurance policies require producers report crop losses within 72 hours of the weather event. Producers with a Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy should report any crop losses to their FSA office as soon as possible. Timely notification to your agent, especially if you plan to abandon, destroy or replant, allows a certified crop loss adjuster the opportunity to appraise your crop. Destruction of a damaged crop prior to an inspection may disqualify a farmer from receiving a crop loss indemnity payment. UMass Extension works in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to educate Massachusetts producers about Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management Programs. For more information, please visit www.rma.usda.gov or contact UMass Risk Management Specialists Paul Russell at pmrrussell@umext.umass.edu or Tom Smiarowski at tsmiarowski@umext.umass.edu.

Calendar at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/events/>



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish.