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## 2016 e-GRO Season Begins

*We are excited about launching the 2016 e-GRO season. We have added five new contributors to the team. Our group now includes 13 floriculture extension specialist from 10 states.*

*Plans are also in place to add a new e-GRO Edible newsletter in the spring.*

We are back for the 2016 spring season with the fifth year of e-GRO Alerts. We have added five new contributors: Heidi Walleger of Michigan State University, Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff of The Ohio State University, Dr. Rosa E. Raudales of the University of Connecticut, and Lee Stiver and Tom Ford of Penn State.

We also had two retirements from the e-GRO team in 2015. We would like to thank Dr. Kristin Getter of Michigan State University and Dr. Brian Krug who was at the University of New Hampshire for all their excellent work. Kristin was able to follow her passion for the classroom by switching to a teaching position at Michigan State. Brian Krug was able to return home to Iowa by taking a job with Pioneer. We wish them the best in their new job responsibilities.

So as we launch into 2016, we now have a team that includes 13 extension specialists from 10 states.

The goal of the newsletter is to let growers know of insect, disease, nutritional, or physiological growth

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Photo by Brian Whipker

## e-GRO Alert

[www.e-gro.org](http://www.e-gro.org)

### CONTRIBUTORS

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situations that are occurring in production greenhouses. So you will know what to be on the look out for.

We will also be launching a new series that focuses on greenhouse food production called e-GRO Edibles. This spring we will send the newsletters out to the entire e-GRO Alert email list. In the near future, we will begin a separate email sign-up for those interested. In the summer of 2016, we will begin sending out e-GRO Edible articles only to that new separate list. So watch out for the sign-up if you are interested.

For e-GRO ALert, we will send out weekly updates during the spring 2016 cropping cycle starting in the week of January 21st through mid-May. The format will focus on a single problem, management strategies, and contain color photographs. This format will make all articles searchable on our website ([e-gro.org](http://e-gro.org)). You will receive an email notification that a new article is posted on the website. Then you can download the article if it interests you.

To subscribe to the newsletter, go to the following web address (<http://e-gro.com/alerts.php>), and click on the orange SUBSCRIBE button.

We would like to thank the American Floral Endowment, Philips, Griffin Greenhouse Supplies, Inc, and Fine Americas for providing funding for this year's Alerts. We would also like to thank the Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation for providing funding for the e-GRO video series.

***Here is a brief introduction to who will be contributing, starting with the new participants.***

**Tom Ford** is a Commercial Horticulture Educator with Penn State Extension and is based in Ebensburg, PA. Tom has statewide responsibilities in the areas of biological control, integrated pest management, greenhouse vegetable production, and floriculture. He has worked as an Extension Educator for 33 years with service time in MD, NC, and PA.



**Rosa E. Raudales** is an Assistant Professor of horticulture and the Greenhouse Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut. Her research areas focus on sustainable greenhouse production including water and nutrient management, irrigation with non-traditional water sources, and biocontrol of waterborne-plant pathogens.



**Beth Scheckelhoff** is an Extension Educator for Greenhouse Systems at The Ohio State University. Beth provides Ohio greenhouse vegetable and ornamental growers with research-based information and recommendations for crop production, pest management, business management, and produce safety topics via educational programs, individual consultations, and publications.



**Lee Stiver** is an Extension Educator with Penn State Extension, based in Washington County, Pennsylvania. As a member of the Penn State Extension Green Industry team, Lee coordinates educational programming for the commercial greenhouse industry in southwestern Pennsylvania.

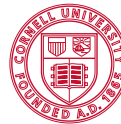


**Heidi Wolleager** is a greenhouse and nursery extension educator with Michigan State University based in Kalamazoo. She provides research-based educational programming for greenhouse growers in southwest Michigan.



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### ***Returning Participants***

**Nora Catlin** - Earned a Ph.D. in Plant, Soils, and Insect Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst (2005). She joined Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County in 2005 as the Floriculture Specialist where she has extension and research responsibilities. Through educational programs and publications, applied research and demonstrations, as well as individual consultations, Nora provides Long Island growers of greenhouse and floriculture crops with up-to-date information and recommendations for crop selection, crop production, pest identification and management, business management, environmental issues, and applicable regulations.

**Chris Currey** - Chris is an Assistant Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University specializing in greenhouse and controlled-environment crop production. His research focuses on alternative greenhouse cropping systems, including hydroponic culinary herb production, alternative mineral nutrition and fertilization strategies, and

new uses for plant growth regulators. In addition to research, Chris also teaches four courses on greenhouse operations and management, hydroponic food crop production, and spring and fall ornamental greenhouse crop production. His extension program is focused on providing support for greenhouse growers in the Upper Midwest.

**Dan Gilrein** - Extension Entomologist with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Riverhead, NY since 1995 and previously served there as IPM Specialist with Cornell from 1987. In his current position he conducts applied research on control of arthropod pests in food crops and on ornamental plants, provides diagnostic services to the horticultural industries, and conducts educational programs and presentations for industry, government officials, civic groups and the public on pests and pest management.

**Joyce Latimer** - Professor and Floriculture Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech University. She specializes in perennials, from production, problem solving, and plant growth regulators. She also

works with greenhouse energy conservation and greenhouse vegetable production.

**Roberto G. Lopez** - Associate Professor and Floriculture Extension Specialist at Purdue University. His principle research interests are: environmental stress and flowering physiology, sustainable and controlled environment greenhouse propagation and production, growth regulation, and production and marketing of new crops. Roberto has authored 28 scientific journal publications and 55 trade magazine and extension articles. Roberto will be switching to a new position at Michigan State University in March.

**Neil Mattson** is Associate Professor and Greenhouse Extension Specialist at Cornell University. Neil serves the greenhouse industry by conducting applied research and outreach related to increasing greenhouse production efficiency while decreasing energy, water, and fertilizer consumption. Recent research areas include: use of granular slow release fertilizer in bedding plant and vegetable transplant production, greenhouse supplemental lighting for vegetable crops,



finishing bedding plants in unheated high tunnels, and practices to enhance the retail shelf life of bedding plants.

**Paul Thomas** - Professor of floriculture at the University of Georgia. His research focuses on commercial bedding plant and perennial production with emphasis on cultural improvement of pansies and vinca, growth control of container-grown perennials, and efficient use of fertility. He is also involved with extension and teaching two undergraduate classes.

**Brian E. Whipker** - Professor at NC State University working in the areas of plant nutrition, diagnostics and plant growth regulators. He also teaches a graduate level plant nutrition class via distance ed. He has published 93 journal articles, a book on nutrient deficiencies of bedding plants, 22 books, 34 book chapters and over 320 magazine/popular press articles.

***e-GRO is a collaborative effort of Floriculture Extension Specialist who focus on providing greenhouse production information to growers.***