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e-GRO University: putting greenhouse growers in a new class

In mid-2013 faculty from five different universities launched one of the latest facets of e-gro.org. e-GRO University is an online education opportunity for seasoned and beginning growers.



Let's face it, not everyone in this industry came into it with a formal education in horticulture; it's not a bad thing, just the reality. There are so many things about growing greenhouse crops that are so well learned on the job. That being said, it is never too late to learn some concepts or refresh yourself on the basics. That is where e-GRO University comes in.

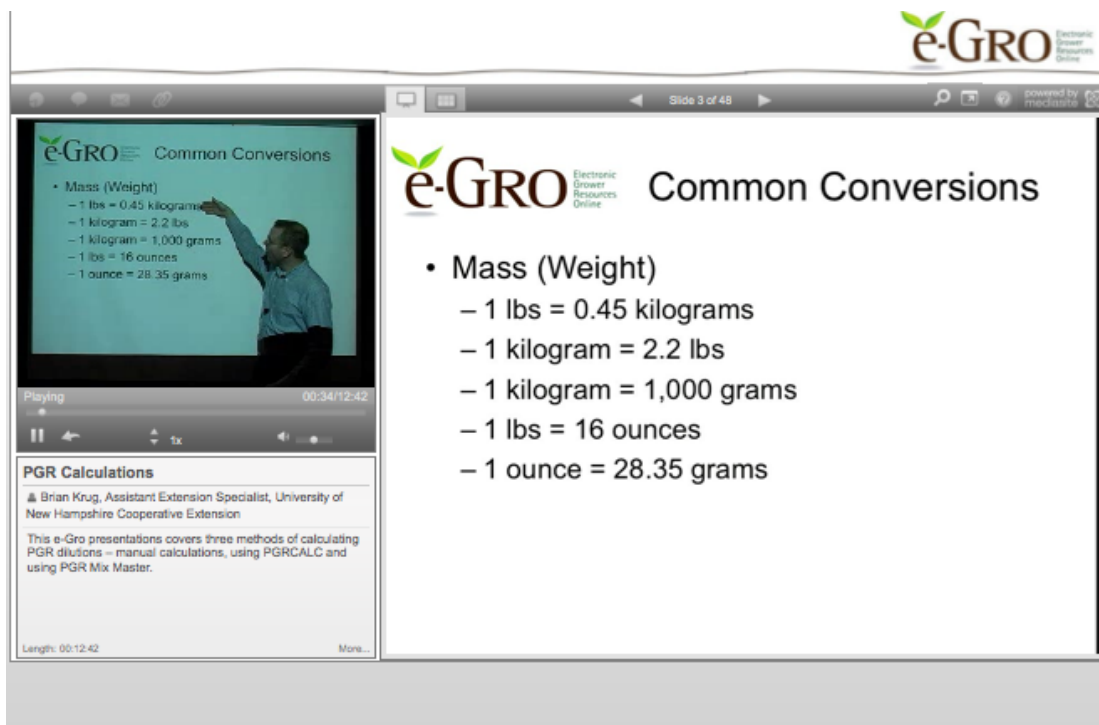


Figure 1. A look at the format of e-GRO University. Not only do you see the presentation, but you also get to see video of the speaker as they lecture.

e-GRO Alert

www.e-gro.org

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e-GRO University is unique in a number of ways. First and foremost the lectures (Brian Whipker, Margery Daughtrey, Raymond, Cloyd, Kim Williams, Roberto Lopez and Brian Krug) developed a curriculum based upon the idea of a sophomore/junior level college greenhouse production course. The result is set of over 60 lectures that fall into five different modules – Greenhouse Management, Growth Management, Nutrient Management, Insects and Mites, and Diseases. Collectively these lectures will provide a solid understanding of the science behind growing in a greenhouse.

The second way that e-GRO University is unique is that it is FREE! Largely due to funding by the Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation this resource is available to you at no charge.

Finally, the last reason the e-GRO University is unique is that it is so convenient to you and your employees. There is a plethora of educational opportunities to growers that include workshops, short courses, and conferences, but these all require travel. e-GRO University is not trying to replace these methods of education, but the traditional opportunities can be cost prohibitive to attend and/or send employees. Where ever you have Internet access be it your office, your home, or on a mobile device you can watch lectures

of e-GRO University at your convenience.

The faculty who created e-GRO University were mentioned above, but let's take some time here to get to know each of them.

Brian Whipker is a Professor and Extension Specialist at North Carolina State University. Brian shared his knowledge of plant nutrition and plant growth regulators in his lectures for e-GRO University.

Margery Daughtrey is the resident plant pathologist from Cornell University. In her e-GRO University lectures Margery discusses exactly what plant diseases are and how to diagnosis them, as well as discussing how to avoid and control the most common diseases we find in greenhouse crops.

Kimberly Williams is a Professor at Kansas State University. Teaching students is a big part of Kim's day-to-day routine and our expert on teaching effectiveness. In addition Kim covers topics around greenhouse structures, management and plant development at e-GRO University.

Roberto Lopez is an Associate Professor at Purdue University. Roberto has taken his research experience to create lectures to help you learn to perfect your propagation, and take advantage of temperatures and light to improve your crop quality.



Cooperating Universities



Cornell University
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of Suffolk County



**In cooperation with our
local and state greenhouse
organizations**



Raymond Cloyd is also a Professor at Kansas State University and is our entomologist. Raymond will both entertain and educate you on the best methods to manage and control insects and mites.

Finally, Brian Krug is an Assistant Extension Professor at the University of New Hampshire. Brian adds his knowledge and experience with PGRs, plant nutrition, and substrates to round-out the e-GRO University faculty.

We invite you to direct your Internet browser to e-GRO.org and click on the e-GRO University tab. Take advantage of this resource for yourself, your seasoned employees and your new hires!