



IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally



Eastern Region
of North America



2026 International



ena.ipps.org/event





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GENERAL INFORMATION

International Tour - Eastern Region

Long Tour

Begin in Twin Cities, Minnesota on September 11 End
in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 25

Short Tour

Begin in Chicago, Illinois on September 18
End in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 25

**Both tours include the IPPS Eastern Region
conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan**



Questions

International Tour Program

Elizabeth Dunham – liz@knighthollownursery.com

*Anyone wishing to extend their stay in Eastern Region can also
contact Liz for suggestions.*



International Tour Registration

Savanah Tanner – ippseasternregion@gmail.com





TOUR INFORMATION



International Tour - Eastern Region

Long Tour

The long tour starts with a welcome reception at the Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown in St. Paul, MN at 5 pm on Friday, September 11. Guests should plan to fly into the Minneapolis Airport (MSP) and may take a taxi or there is a direct bus departing from MSP Terminal 1 Transit Station station and arriving at 7th St W & Chestnut St. Services depart every 20 minutes, and operate every day. The journey takes approximately 19 min.



Short Tour

The short tour starts in Chicago, IL on Saturday, September 18. Guests should plan to fly into Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) by evening of Friday, September 17. There is a direct train departing from O'Hare and arriving at Clark/Lake. Services depart every 10 minutes, and operate every day. The journey takes approximately 40 min. Alternatively, guests may take a taxi or Uber/Lift for a shorter journey which takes approximately 21 minutes.



Both the long and short tours will finish at the conclusion of the IPPS Eastern Region conference in Grand Rapids, MI at 12:30 pm on Friday, September 25. Guests may travel on their own to General R. Ford International Airport (GRR) in Grand Rapids or find transportation to either the Detroit Airport (DTW) or back to Chicago to O'Hare (ORD).





TOUR COSTS

International Tour - Eastern Region

Registration

Tour costs are in U.S. dollars and include tax.

Registration opens: January 15, 2026

Registration closes: April 1, 2026

Short Tour

Long Tour September 11 – September 25

Short Tour September 18– September 25

All pricing TBD. Single and double occupancy will be available.

What is included: Accommodation –

Long tour 14 nights, Short tour 7 nights.

Travel in Coach. Full registration to IPPS Eastern Region

Conference, All meals/drinks specified, Any special

activities/entrance fees, transfers if applicable at start and end of tours.

What is not included: Items of a personal nature e.g. internet use,

minibar, laundry. Free time on select evenings. Transfers from

Minneapolis/Chicago airports. End of tour transport to Grand

Rapids Airport (GRR) Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)

.or Detroit International Airport (DTW).





INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

International Tour - Eastern Region

First International Meeting

Our first international meeting will be held in Chicago on Saturday, September 19th at 8am-12pm. After the meeting we will meet up with the rest of our group for the Architecture boat tour and the self guided tour of the Millennium park/Lourie Garden.

Second (Optional) International Meeting

If needed we will meet as a Board again in Michigan on Monday, September 21st at 8am. If we do not feel it is needed to meet as a board again we can take the time to meet as committees.



Welcome To **MINNESOTA**



ITINERARY

Friday, Sept. 11
Welcome reception with
heavy hors d'oeuvres +
beverages

Accommodation:
Hampton Inn & Suites



Saturday, Sept. 12
Tour Gertens Garden
Center, Bachmans Floral,
Mall of America, and
Minneapolis Sculpture
Garden

Riverboat Tour for dinner

Accommodation:
Hampton Inn & Suites

Sunday, Sept. 13
Bailey Nurseries Tour:
bareroot tree and shrub
production,
pot-in-pot container tree
production, container shrub,
evergreen, and perennial
finished plant production for
retail, wholesale, and landscape
markets.

Accommodation:
Hampton Inn & Suites



Monday, Sept. 14
Travel along the Great River
Road, stop at Taliesin for
lunch and garden tour.
Make way to Madison, WI

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn
Madison

❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 12

- **Bailey Nurseries**

- **Nord Farm** (woody plant propagation of approximately 10 million cuttings annually, trial and display gardens, research and development.) Located in Cottage Grove, MN.
- **Bailey Nurseries Bareroot Tree and Shrub Production.** Focusing on field production of 1–3-year shrubs, ornamental trees from whip to branched sizes. Located in Hastings, MN.
- **Bailey Nurseries Mogren Farm** featuring pot-in-pot container tree production. Bailey produces a broad range of container trees for the retail and wholesale markets from #7 to #25-gallon containers. Located in Hastings, MN.
- **Bailey Nurseries Container East** featuring container shrub, evergreen, and perennial finished plant production for retail, wholesale, and landscape markets. Here you will see consumer brands like Endless Summer, First Editions, and Easy Elegance roses amongst the catalog of many other woody plants. Located in Woodbury, MN.

Sept 13

- **Gertens Garden:** Gertens is one of North America's largest garden centers and home to Minnesota's largest selection of annuals, perennials, natives, houseplants, trees, shrubs, and evergreens. We've been "Growing in the Grove" in Inver Grove Heights since 1921 and our campus now covers over 100 acres of shopping and growing facilities. Gertens was founded by Frank Gerten over 100 years ago with a simple motto "Buy Direct from the Grower." Today, Gertens is still a family-owned business with the same focus on giving our customers the ability to buy high-quality plants and trees directly from a local grower. The fourth generation of family now work throughout our business and growing operations.
- **Bachmans:** Bachman's, Inc. boasts thirty-six retail locations in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, including six Floral, Home, and Garden Centers, and twenty-eight Flowers by Bachman's stores within Lunds & Byerlys. Bachman's also operates indoor and outdoor landscaping divisions, including a garden maintenance department; our Cedar Acres Hardscapes Center; a nursery wholesale division; and a growing range near Lakeville, Minnesota, that includes eight acres of greenhouses and 700 acres of fields, where we produce many of the plants, flowers, and landscaping products sold in Bachman's various entities.

Tour

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 13 (continued)

- **Mall of America:** Since opening its doors in 1992, Mall of America has revolutionized the shopping experience of tens of millions of visitors a year. A leader in retail, entertainment and attractions, Mall of America is one of the top tourist destinations in the country and is known around the world.
- **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden:** The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is an 11-acre (4.5 ha) park in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the United States. It is located near the Walker Art Center, which operates it in coordination with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. It reopened June 10, 2017, after a reconstruction that resulted with the Walker and Sculpture Garden being unified as one 19-acre campus. It is one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the country, with 40 permanent art installations and several other temporary pieces that are moved in and out periodically.
- **Riverboat Dinner Tour:** Enjoy a Delicious Meal Aboard a Riverboat Dining Cruise in the Twin Cities

Sept 14

- **Great River Road:** The Great River Road is a collection of state and local roads that follow the course of the Mississippi River through ten states of the United States. They are Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.
- **Taliesin East (lunch):** The Taliesin estate's agricultural fields are certified organic; the landscape department maintains the gardens and landscapes in and around Taliesin. In the garden, orchard, and vineyard, we look at old photos and replant the same types of plants and trees in the same or similar locations as they were in the 1950s.



Welcome To **WISCONSIN**



ITINERARY

Tuesday, Sept. 15
Tour Knight Hollow
Nursery, Olbrich
Gardens, The Gardens of
Epic:treehouse, farm
buildings + greenhouse

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn
Madison



Wednesday, Sept. 16
Tour University of
Wisconsin Arboretum +
campus, Allen Centennial
Garden, & Babcock Dairy +
Ice Cream treat!

Betty Lou Boat tour
on Lake Monona for dinner

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn
Madison

Thursday, Sept. 17
Tour McKay Nursery, Johnson's
Nursery + lunch, Harley
Davidson Museum, and Mitchell
Domes

Make way to Chicago!

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown
(Magnificent Mile)



❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 15

- **Knight Hollow Nursery:** Knight Hollow Nursery (KHN) has a rich history and impressive growth trajectory. Established in 1981 by Deborah and Brent McCown, and currently led by their daughter Elizabeth (Dunham) Erikson, KHN specializes in the tissue culture of woody ornamentals and fruit crops. Over the years, KHN has grown significantly and now serves as a contract grower, shipping both in-vitro and small, finished plugs across the United States and into Canada.
- In response to increasing demand, KHN has recently expanded by opening a new laboratory at the University Research Park in Madison, Wisconsin. Meanwhile, the original Middleton, WI location is also undergoing expansion to enhance its rooting and acclimation capacity. This growth ensures that KHN can continue to meet the needs of the nursery industry, all while maintaining its commitment to providing high-quality plants with the personalized, small-family business touch that customers value.
- **Olbrich Gardens:** Tour: Get an insider's view of Olbrich's outdoor gardens during a 60-minute guided tour led by a volunteer tour guide. Tours include information about Olbrich's history and your tour guide's favorite insider tidbits alongside highlights of areas of peak interest during your visit.
 - Olbrich info: Olbrich Botanical Gardens is a 16-acre outdoor botanical garden and 10,000-square-foot conservatory in Madison, Wisconsin. Founded in 1952 and named for its founder, Michael Olbrich, the gardens are owned and operated jointly by the City of Madison Parks and the non-profit Olbrich Botanical Society.
- **The Gardens of Epic:** Join us for a delightful tour of the whimsical gardens at Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. Founded in 1979 by Judy Faulkner, Epic creates medical records software for the healthcare industry, serving over 305 million customers in more than 16 countries worldwide. After outgrowing its Madison location, Epic's Verona headquarters began construction in 2006 and has been expanding ever since. Epic owns over 1600 acres, most of which they want to shelter from development to preserve the beautiful views of the rural countryside towards the west. About 550 of those acres are still worked by local farmers.

❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 15

- **The Gardens of Epic (cont.):** The central portion of the property is made-up of 28 office buildings that support over 12,000 employees and span five campuses that are uniquely themed both inside and out – Farm, Prairie, Central Park/Learning, Wizards Academy and Storybook. Finishing touches are being put on the last buildings of the Storybook campus and ground was broken on campus 6 in 2023.
 - Epic Facts:
 - 82 buildings – including a treehouse, 24 farm buildings & 1 greenhouse – support the operation of Epic
 - Almost 7500 geothermal wells were drilled to help sustainably heat and cool the buildings as well as 1.75 MW of solar panels and 6 wind turbines generating 9.9 MW of power
 - On campus there are 42 sheep, 14 cows, 300 cow bikes, 4 dinosaurs, 1 cave, 1 train car and 1 ship-wrecked boat. If the underground parking structures were surface parking lots instead, they would cover almost 90 acres of land!

Sept 16

- **University of Wisconsin Arboretum + Campus:** The University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum, established in 1933, encompasses 1,240 acres situated in the city of Madison and is composed of woodlands, savannas, prairies, wetlands and formalized garden collections. It contains the 1st prairie restoration in the world and is considered to be the birthplace of ecological restoration. A jewel within the arboretum's landscape is the 37-acre Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, the arboretum's arboretum. This internationally recognized living collection containing Wisconsin's largest and most diverse array of woody plants, composed of over 2,600 taxa and approximately 4,000 specimens. Highlights include the third-largest public collection of lilacs in the United States, along with renowned collections of flowering crabapples, magnolias, conifers, and flowering shrubs. Additionally, the arboretum contains the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden. Located on 4-acres surrounding the Visitor Center and designed by renowned landscape architect Darrel Morrison, it encompasses 15 gardens displaying hundreds of native Wisconsin plant species.

❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 16 (cont.)

- **Allen Centennial:** Since its groundbreaking in 1985, Allen Centennial Garden has blossomed into a cherished horticultural and cultural landmark on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus. Established as a teaching garden for the Department of Horticulture and named in honor of Ethel and Oscar Allen—two extraordinary scientists and UW faculty—the Garden was envisioned as both an educational resource and a living tribute. Rooted in decades of planning, student involvement, and community support, ACG has grown beyond its original mission to become a hub for campus and public engagement. From its historic location around the former Agricultural Dean’s Residence to its evolution through multiple directors and eras, the Garden continues to thrive as a dynamic space for learning, reflection, and connection with the natural world.
- **DC Greenhouse:** The D. C. Smith Greenhouse, completed in the fall of 1996, is a greenhouse facility of the UW–Madison campus. The mission of the facility is to provide plant-growing space for the instructional needs of the departments and programs of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. These are primarily undergraduate classes. With 10,000 square feet under glass, the facility consists of 10 growing bays, a high humidity propagation bay, and a 1,600 square foot conservatory. Support space includes a large potting/class area and a chemical safety and storage facility.

Sept 17

- **Johnsons Nursery:** Johnson’s Nursery is a third-generation, family-owned business. We passionately pursue our goal of providing hardy nursery stock to Southeastern Wisconsin and the Midwest. By emphasizing the importance of local eco-type seed and parent material, we strive to propagate and grow the finest quality trees, shrubs, conifers, broadleaf evergreens, and herbaceous perennials already genetically adapted to our weather, soils, and light conditions. Clients can be sure that our field-produced stock is fully acclimated before purchase. If it was not, the plants would never leave the fields.
- **McKay Nursery:** McKay Nursery is the largest and one of the oldest nurseries in Wisconsin. Founded by William McKay in southern Wisconsin in 1897, we have been specializing in hardy, northern grown nursery stock for over 125 years. We are a leader in the wholesale nursery trade, providing bare root trees and shrubs, balled and burlapped trees, evergreens, and potted nursery stock to customers all the way from Alaska to Maine. We sell to growers, garden centers and landscape designers. Learn more or contact our wholesale department.

❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 17 (cont.)

- **Boerner Botanical Gardens:** Located just outside Milwaukee in Hales Corners, Boerner Botanical Gardens offers a stunning escape into nature with 12 formal gardens featuring roses, herbs, perennials, peonies, and more. Designed in the 1930s, the gardens blend historic charm with vibrant seasonal displays and unique spaces like the whimsical Margie's Garden for children. Open from late April to early November, Boerner also hosts lively events like Concerts in the Gardens and the spectacular China Lights lantern festival. With educational programs, tours, and beautiful backdrops, Boerner Botanical Gardens is a must-visit destination for garden lovers of all ages.
- **Harley Davidson Museum:** Visit the world's only Harley-Davidson Museum to experience the rich history and culture of the iconic brand. Through engaging stories and interactive exhibits, guests can explore the legacy of camaraderie, self-expression, and love for the open road. Home to an unparalleled collection of Harley-Davidson® motorcycles and memorabilia, the H-D Museum spans two floors of exhibits and sits on a scenic 20-acre park-like campus. Visitors can enjoy unique shopping and dining experiences, as well as a full calendar of events and activities.
- **Mitchell Park Domes:** Experience the wonders of the plant world at Milwaukee's Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, affectionately known as The Domes. This iconic destination features three distinct environments under striking glass structures.
 - Tropical Dome: Immerse yourself in a lush rainforest with over 1,200 plant species, including towering palms and exotic flowers.
 - Desert Dome: Explore arid landscapes showcasing cacti, succulents, and desert palms from regions like Africa and the Americas.
 - Floral Show Dome: Delight in ever-changing, themed floral displays that transform five times a year, offering a fresh experience each visit.



Welcome To **ILLINOIS**





ITINERARY



Friday, Sept. 18

Tour Ball Nursery, Midwest Ground Cover, and Morton Arboretum + dinner onsite

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown
(Magnificent Mile)



Saturday, Sept. 19

First International Board meeting
Non-Board Members and Spouses Tour
Chicago Architecture boat tour, self guided downtown tour of Lurie Gardens + Millennium Park, free evening for attendees

Accommodation:
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown
(Magnificent Mile)

Sunday, Sept. 20

Tour Chicago Botanical Gardens, possible stop along the MI sand dunes or along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Make way to Grand Rapids!

Accommodation:
Amway Plaza Hotel



❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 18

- **Ball Horticulture:** Since its inception in 1905, Ball Horticultural Company has evolved into a global leader in ornamental horticulture. With a presence on six continents, Ball specializes in the research, breeding, production, and marketing of a diverse range of ornamental crops. Their extensive portfolio includes renowned varieties such as Wave® petunias, Cool Wave® pansies, and Sombrero® Echinacea, which have significantly influenced modern gardening trends. Committed to innovation and quality, Ball Horticultural continues to provide exceptional plant varieties and services to growers, landscapers, and retailers worldwide.
- **Midwest Groundcovers:** Midwest Groundcovers, LLC, is an industry leader in the propagation, growing and wholesale distribution of quality container nursery stock. We operate over 700 acres of state-of-the-art nursery production facilities at five locations in St. Charles, IL; Virgil, IL; and Glenn, MI.
 - Each year, these nurseries produce millions of container plants, including more than 130 different groundcover varieties; over 240 species of local ecotype native plants identified as Natural Garden Natives®; 140 regional Midwest native species of which some are naturally occurring selections; more than 500 varieties of perennials and ornamental grasses; and over 275 varieties of deciduous shrubs, native shrubs, broadleaf evergreens, hardy shrub roses, conifers, and vines.
- **Morton Arboretum:** Discover the living museum of trees at The Morton Arboretum, a world-renowned 1,700-acre public garden located in Lisle, Illinois. Home to more than 222,000 plants representing nearly 4,650 species, the Arboretum is dedicated to the study, conservation, and celebration of trees. Visitors can explore exhibits and seasonal events that inspire a deeper appreciation for nature. Whether you're a plant enthusiast, a family seeking outdoor adventure, or a researcher in the field, The Morton Arboretum offers something for everyone—rooted in science, grounded in beauty

◦



❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 19

- **For those attendees who are not attending the International Board Meeting, we have the following options available for your enjoyment:**
 - Shedd Aquarium
 - Art Institute of Chicago
 - Navy Pier
 - Chicago Riverwalk
 - Skydeck Chicago
 - Field Museum
 - Museum of Science and Industry
 - Lincoln Park Zoo
- **Chicago Architecture boat tour:** Discover Chicago's rich architectural heritage through a variety of guided tours that showcase the city's iconic skyline and historic neighborhoods. The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) offers an array of options, including the renowned 90-minute Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady, where expert docents narrate the stories behind over 50 buildings along the Chicago River. For a different perspective, Shoreline Sightseeing provides a 60-minute architecture river tour covering more than 40 landmarks, offering insights into the city's history and architectural marvels. If you prefer to explore on foot, Inside Chicago Walking Tours delve into the hidden details and interiors of Chicago's architectural gems, uncovering stories often missed by passersby. Whether by boat or on foot, these tours offer an engaging and informative experience for architecture enthusiasts and casual visitors alike
- **Downtown tour of Lurie Gardens (self guided)**
 - Lurie Garden is Millennium Park's 'secret garden'. This naturalistic garden is a place of rest and renewal for humans and wildlife alike. An urban model of responsible horticulture, Lurie Garden provides a healthy habitat for a wide variety of plants, animals, and insects. Lurie Garden is a leader in landscape architecture, garden design, responsible maintenance practices and engaging educational events in an urban environment.

❖ Tour ❖

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 19 cont.

- The garden offers a four-season experience blending Chicago's past, present and future with bold design, dramatic form, and intimate spaces. Its design pays homage to Chicago's transformation from flat marshland to a city heralded for investing in extensive green spaces, or "Urbs in Horto" (City in a Garden).
- Millennium Park (self-guided): Experience the vibrant heart of Chicago at Millennium Park, a 25-acre urban oasis renowned for its innovative art, architecture, and landscape design. Located in downtown Chicago, the park features iconic attractions such as Cloud Gate (affectionately known as "The Bean"), the interactive Crown Fountain, and the serene Lurie Garden. Visitors can enjoy free concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, explore public art installations, and take in stunning views of the city skyline. Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with free admission, Millennium Park offers a dynamic cultural experience for all ages.

Sept 20

- **Chicago Botanic Garden:** Discover the beauty and diversity of the plant world at the Chicago Botanic Garden, a 385-acre living museum located in Glencoe, Illinois. Featuring 28 distinct gardens and four natural areas spread across nine islands with six miles of shoreline, the Garden offers a serene escape into nature. Visitors can explore themed gardens such as the Japanese Garden, English Walled Garden, and the vibrant Rose Garden. Beyond its stunning landscapes, the Garden is dedicated to plant conservation science, urban agriculture, and lifelong learning through various educational programs. Whether you're a gardening enthusiast or seeking a peaceful retreat, the Chicago Botanic Garden provides an enriching experience for all.



Welcome To **MICHIGAN**





ITINERARY

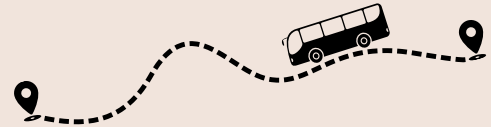


Monday, Sept. 21
Optional
International Board Meeting
or Committee Meetings

Non-Board Members and
Spouses Tour

Joining ER and Intl. Board Dinner

Accommodation:
Amway Plaza Hotel



Tuesday – Friday, Sept. 22 to Sept. 25
Tuesday: Attendees will enjoy a pre-tour followed by welcome reception,
Wednesday: Conference will be formally opened with a full day of educational sessions
Thursday: Attendees will enjoy a full day tour
Friday: The Conference will end with a half-day educational session

Accommodation:
Amway Plaza Hotel

Friday, Sept. 25

End of Tour
Attendees may choose to stay in Michigan longer or may make their way back to an airport of their choice to fly home.



Tour

DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 21

- **For those attendees who are not attending the International Board Meeting, we have the following options available for your enjoyment:**
 - Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum
 - John Ball Zoo
 - Grand Rapids Public museum
 - Grand Rapids art Museum
 - Grand Rapids Children's Museum
 - Art Prize- A competition where Artwork is displayed throughout the city.
 - Fish Ladder
 - Local Brewery tours

Sept 22 – All Day Conference Pre-Tour

- **Frederick Meijer Gardens:** Experience the harmonious blend of art and nature at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Spanning 158 acres, this renowned destination features Michigan's largest tropical conservatory, diverse indoor and outdoor gardens, and an impressive collection of over 200 sculptures by internationally acclaimed artists. Visitors can explore themed gardens, including an 8-acre Japanese garden, and enjoy seasonal exhibitions like the popular "Butterflies Are Blooming." Whether you're a horticulture enthusiast, art lover, or seeking a serene retreat, Frederik Meijer Gardens offers an inspiring experience for all ages
- **Spring Meadow Nursery:** Established in 1981 by Dale and Liz Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery has grown into a leading wholesale propagation nursery specializing in shrubs, vines, and small trees. Located in Grand Haven, Michigan, the family-owned business offers over 400 cultivars to more than 3,000 nurseries, garden centers, and mail-order companies across North America. As the developer behind Proven Winners® ColorChoice® Flowering Shrubs, Spring Meadow has introduced popular varieties like 'Limelight' Hydrangea and Wine & Roses® Weigela. Their dedication to innovation and quality has earned them a reputation as an industry leader in new, colorful flowering shrubs.

Tour

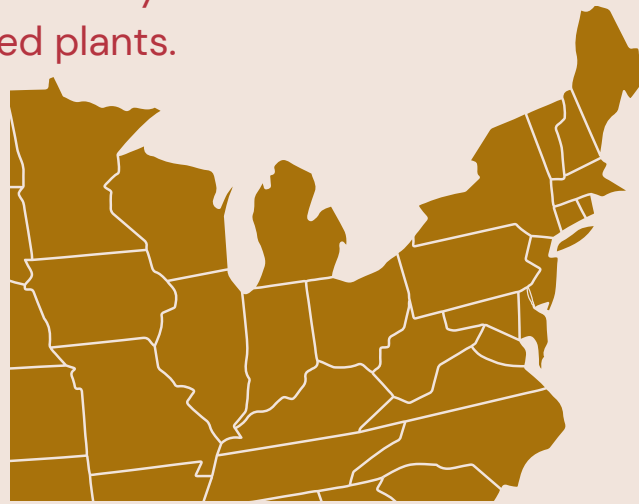
DESCRIPTIONS

Sept 24 – All Day Tour

- **Walter's Gardens:** Walters Gardens began as a small, family run 5-acre farm growing perennials for local suppliers. It has since grown to 1,500 acres and over 750,000 square feet of greenhouses. Still family owned, we haven't lost sight of our (bare) roots or the values that made this company what it is. Our commitment to a high quality product and genetics have led to an expansive collection of plant introductions, lasting relationships with our customers, and a close relationship with Proven Winners® as the exclusive home of Proven Winners® Perennials.
- **Degrandchamp Farms:** Degrandchamps started with a twelve-acre blueberry farm in 1958 and now a farm 200 acres of Blueberries, 40 acres of Cranberries and approximately 7 acres of container grown nursery stock and greenhouses. We have a modern packing and shipping facility with a farm market and offices. DeGrandchamp was lucky enough to be able to see the farm grow into what it is today. Daughter, Judy Johnson, manages the office and retail. Mike DeGrandchamp oversees the Nursery/ Greenhouse Operations. Joe DeGrandchamp manages the Blueberry portion of the business. Bob DeGrandchamp oversees the Cranberry Care and Harvesting. And at one time or another all of 11 grandchildren have spent time working on the farm.
- **Garden's Alive Farms:** With 1,200 acres of field, container, and greenhouse production, we are able to provide a variety of plant options ranging from houseplants and perennials – to shrubs, conifers and deciduous trees. We are located 5 miles off the shore of Lake Michigan on the beautiful western coast of Michigan in the township of Grand Haven– sometimes better known as Coast Guard City, USA! Our prime location provides us with a unique micro-climate that allows us to grow a wide selection of plants successfully while still raising them under cold hardy conditions. Lake Michigan moderates our weather conditions, giving us cooler summers and warmer winters, but don't be fooled! The lake effect snow makes our plants tough against the elements!
- **Mast Young Plants:** Visitors to our trial garden will find their favorite plant series displayed side by side with competitor lines, making it easy to compare performance and make confident selections. Our layout is compact and efficient intentionally so visitors can easily walk the aisles and evaluate many different options. We invite you to explore our wide variety of in-ground trials, container trials, and more than 500 unique combination planters. Looking for fresh inspiration? Use our trials to spark new ideas for your own combos! We love experimenting and seeing how different varieties "play" together, which results in unexpected and beautiful results you may not have imagined.

❖ EASTERN REGION ❖ FACTS

The Eastern Region is very rich in biological diversity and harbor 605 Regional Forester Sensitive Plants and 13 federally threatened or endangered plants.



Islands of green in a sea of people, the Eastern Region is the most geographically, ecologically, and socially diverse area in the United States. Regional boundaries contain 20 states with over 43% of the nation's population, making it the most urban.

There are currently 51 established Research Natural Areas in the North Central and Northeastern states.

There are 57 areas identified as candidate or potential RNAs, which are in various stages of review for possible establishment.

Facts about the Eastern Region :

- The Eastern Region is rich in water with over 10,000 lakes, 15,000 miles of streams, and 2 million acres of wetlands. The 12 million acres of national forest system lands are among the largest contiguous blocks of public lands.
- Community types include: boreal forests; tall grass prairie; pine barrens; shoreline along three Great Lakes; central hardwood forests; glades; bogs; Appalachian foothills; the White Mountains; some of the most extensive virgin forests in the eastern U.S., and so much more.