



# 2026 International





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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## International Tour - Eastern Region

### Long Tour: 11-25 September

Begin in Twin Cities, Minnesota (MSP) on September 11  
End in Grand Rapids, Michigan (GRR) on September 25

### Short Tour: 18-25 September

Begin in Chicago, Illinois (ORD) on September 18  
End in Grand Rapids, Michigan (GRR) on September 25

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

## Questions

**International President:** Elizabeth Dunham

[Liz@knightlownursery.com](mailto:Liz@knightlownursery.com)

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

**Tour Coordinator:** Brie Arthur  
[Brie@BrieGrows.com](mailto:Brie@BrieGrows.com)



# TOUR INFORMATION

## International Tour - Eastern Region

**Long Tour begins at 5pm September 11 in Minneapolis**

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 Ride Share (Lyft or Uber), taxi, or a direct bus departing from MSP Terminal 1 Transit Station arriving at 7th St W & Chestnut St. Bus services depart every 20 minutes and operate daily. The journey is less than a half hour.

**Short Tour begins at 6pm September 17 in Chicago**

The short tour officially begins the morning of Friday September 18. Attendees are encouraged to fly into Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) before 6pm Central Time on Thursday, September 17 to partake in the group dinner. There is a direct train departing from O'Hare and arriving at Clark and Lake Street. Services depart every 10 minutes and operate daily. Alternatively, guests may hire a Ride Share (Lyft or Uber) or a Taxi for a short 20-minute journey to the host hotel.

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: 15 January 2026

Registration Closes: 15 April 2026

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### Long Tour 11 – 25 September 2026

Single Occupancy \$5,995

Double Occupancy \$4,295

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### Short Tour 18 – 25 September 2026

Single Occupancy \$3,995

Double Occupancy \$2,995

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### What is Included?

Accommodations: Long tour 14 nights, Short Tour 7 Nights

Travel in Coach

Full registration to IPPS Eastern Region Conference

Specified meals and beverages

All special activity entrance fees

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### Not Included

Items of a personal nature e.g. internet use, mini bar, laundry, etc.  
On your own dining and beverages, Transfers to and from airports.



# INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

## International Tour - Eastern Region

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### International Board Meeting

**Saturday 19 September 8am-1pm**

The International Board Meeting will be held in Chicago, IL on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 8am - 1 pm. Lunch is included. Following the meeting the board will meet with the groups for a boat tour of Chicago.

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### International Committee Meetings

**Monday 21 September 8-11am**

The International Committees will have an opportunity to meet in Grand Rapids, MI to discuss action items and goals for the society to work toward on Monday, September 21, 2026, from 8am-11am.





# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS



## NORTH AMERICAN SPONSORS



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## International Tour Sponsors

Bailey Nurseries

Ball Horticultural Company

Garden Solutions

Knight Hollow Nursery

Johnson's Nursery

McKay Nursery

Midwest Groundcovers

Spring Meadow Nursery

# Welcome To **MINNESOTA**



# ITINERARY

**Friday, Sept. 11**

**Welcome Happy Hour and Group Dinner**

**Accommodation: Embassy Suites Minneapolis**

**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: Embassy Suites Minneapolis**

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

**Tour Gertens Garden Center, Bachmans Floral, Mall of America, and Riverboat Tour for dinner**

**Accommodation: Embassy Suites Minneapolis**



**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

## Saturday September 12

**Bachmans Floral Home & Garden:** Bachman's, Inc. operates 36 retail locations across the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, including Floral, Home, and Garden Centers and Flowers by Bachman's shops within Lunds & Byerlys. The company also runs landscaping, garden maintenance, wholesale nursery, and hardscape divisions, with extensive growing operations near Lakeville, Minnesota, featuring eight acres of greenhouses and 700 acres of production fields.

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 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. **(attendees to cover cost)**

**Gertens Greenhouses:** Gertens is one of North America's largest garden centers, offering Minnesota's largest selection of annuals, perennials, natives, houseplants, trees, shrubs, and evergreens. Founded in 1921 in Inver Grove Heights, the 100-acre campus remains family-owned and rooted in Frank Gerten's original motto, "Buy Direct from the Grower." Now in its fourth generation, Gertens continues to provide high-quality plants grown locally.

**Riverboat Dinner Tour:** Enjoy a Delicious Meal Aboard the Paddleford Riverboat

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## Sunday September 13

**Minneapolis Sculpture Garden:** This 11-acre urban park operated by the Walker Art Center in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Reopened in 2017 after a major reconstruction, it is now part of a unified 19-acre campus and features 40 permanent sculptures along with rotating temporary installations.

**Bailey Nurseries:** An IPPS International sponsor, Bailey Nurseries is one of North America's leading growers of woody plants, known for its innovation, scale, and quality. Founded in 1905, the family-owned company grows trees, shrubs, and perennials for garden centers and landscape professionals across the continent. Bailey Nurseries is the home of both the Endless Summer® Hydrangeas and First Editions® brands, two of the most influential plant lines in modern gardening.

**Thank you for being the PREMIER INTERNATIONAL TOUR SPONSOR**

# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## Sunday September 13 (continued)

**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.

**THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH, DINNER & REFRESHMENTS**

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## Monday September 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.

**Taliesin East:** Enjoy lunch at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, the architect's personal home, studio, and school, widely regarded as one of his most significant works of organic architecture. The estate's agricultural fields are certified organic, and the landscape department carefully maintains the gardens and grounds surrounding the historic buildings. In the garden, orchard, and vineyard, historic photos guide the replanting of the same or similar plantings used in the 1950s.

**Dinner on Your Own in Downtown Madison, WI (attendees to cover cost)**

# Welcome To **WISCONSIN**



# ITINERARY

## Tuesday, Sept. 15 Tour

**Knight Hollow Nursery,  
Olbrich Gardens, The  
Gardens of Epic Systems**

**Accommodation:  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Madison**

## Thursday, Sept. 17

**McKay Nursery, Johnson's Nursery,  
Harley Davidson Museum**

**Accommodation:  
Embassy Suites  
Downtown Chicago  
Magnificent Mile**

## Wednesday, Sept. 16 Tour

**University of Wisconsin  
Arboretum, campus, Allen  
Centennial Garden &  
Babcock Dairy + Ice Cream**

**Accommodation:  
Hilton Garden Inn Madison**



# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

**Tuesday September 15**

**Knight Hollow Nursery:** Founded in 1981 by Deborah and Brent McCown and now led by their daughter Elizabeth Erikson, specializes in tissue culture of woody ornamentals and fruit crops. The company serves as a contract grower, shipping in-vitro plants and finished plugs across the U.S. and Canada. Recent expansions include a new lab at University Research Park in Madison, Wisconsin, and increased rooting and acclimation capacity at its Middleton location, supporting continued growth while maintaining a family-run focus on quality.

**THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS**

**Olbrich Botanical Gardens:** 16-acre outdoor garden and 10,000-square-foot conservatory in Madison, Wisconsin. Founded in 1952 and named for its founder, Michael Olbrich, the gardens are jointly owned and operated by the City of Madison Parks Department and the nonprofit Olbrich Botanical Society.

**The Gardens of Epic Systems:** Tour the imaginative, storybook-style gardens at Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. Founded in 1979 by Judy Faulkner, Epic is a global leader in medical records software, serving over 300 million people worldwide. The 1,600-acre campus blends themed architecture and landscapes across multiple campuses including Farm, Prairie, Central Park, Wizards Academy, and Storybook while preserving large areas of open land and working farms. Powered by geothermal wells, solar panels, and wind turbines, Epic's campus is a playful, innovative showcase of sustainable design and land stewardship.

**Dinner at Sugar River Pizza 7-9pm**



# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## Wednesday September 16

**University of Wisconsin Arboretum:** Established in 1933, the 1,240-acre UW Arboretum is the birthplace of ecological restoration and home to the world's first prairie restoration. Its crown jewel, the 37-acre Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, features Wisconsin's most diverse collection of woody plants, including nationally significant lilacs, crabapples, magnolias, and conifers. The Arboretum also showcases the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden, a beautifully designed 4-acre landscape highlighting hundreds of native species.

## Lunch at UW Memorial Union

**Allen Centennial Garden:** Since breaking ground in 1985, Allen Centennial Garden has grown into a beloved horticultural landmark on the UW–Madison campus. Established as a teaching garden for the Department of Horticulture and named for Ethel and Oscar Allen, it blends education, history, and beauty. Today, the garden thrives as a dynamic space for learning, community engagement, and connection to the natural world.

**DC Greenhouse:** Completed in 1996, is a key plant-growing facility on the UW–Madison campus serving the instructional needs of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The 10,000-square-foot complex includes ten growing bays, a high-humidity propagation bay, and a 1,600-square-foot conservatory. Additional spaces support hands-on learning with a large potting and teaching area and dedicated chemical safety and storage facilities.

**Babcock Dairy:** A campus icon, known for producing award-winning ice cream, cheese, and dairy products using milk from the university's own herd. Founded in 1890, it blends hands-on education, research, and delicious tradition in one unforgettable stop.

## Dinner at Red in Downtown Madison, WI 6-9pm

# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## Thursday September 17

**Johnson's 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.

### THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS

**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, ball and burlap 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.

### THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH

**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.

### Happy Hour and Group Dinner in Downtown Chicago, IL 6-9pm

- Short Tour Attendees will join group dinner

Welcome To

# ILLINOIS



# ITINERARY

**Friday, Sept. 18**

**Morten Arboretum,  
Midwest Ground Covers,  
Ball Horticultural Company**

**Accommodation:  
Embassy Suites  
Downtown Chicago  
Magnificent Mile**



**Saturday, Sept. 19**

**International Board Meeting**

**Free morning for to enjoy a  
self-guided tour of Lurie  
Gardens & Millennium Park**

**Architectural Boat Tour**

**Accommodation:  
Embassy Suites  
Downtown Chicago  
Magnificent Mile**

**Sunday, Sept. 20 Tour**

**Chicago Botanical Gardens**

**Make way to Grand Rapids!**

**International Tour Banquet**

**Accommodation:  
Amway Plaza Hotel  
Grand Rapids**



# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## Friday September 18– SHORT TOUR BEGINS

**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.

**Midwest Groundcovers:** Founded in 1965 by visionary leader and IPPS member Peter Orum, Midwest Groundcovers LLC is a leading wholesale producer of container nursery stock, operating on more than 700 acres across Illinois and Michigan. 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.

## THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

**Ball Horticultural Company:** Founded in 1905, is a global leader in ornamental horticulture with operations on six continents. The company is known for iconic plant introductions such as Wave® petunias, Cool Wave® pansies, and Sombrero® Echinacea, which have shaped modern gardening. Leadership has remained within the family, with Anna Ball guiding the company for many years and now transitioning leadership to the next generation. An IPPS International sponsor, Ball is deeply committed to research, breeding, and education, and is generously hosting dinner for International Tour attendees.

## THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING DINNER & REFRESHMENTS

# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

**Saturday September 19**

**International Board Meeting 8am -1pm LUNCH INCLUDED**

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**Free morning for those not attending the International Board Meeting  
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**Self-guided tour recommendations:**

- Millennial Park & Lurie Garden
- Shedd Aquarium
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Navy Pier
- Chicago Riverwalk
- Skydeck
- Chicago Field Museum
- Museum of Science and Industry

**Lurie Garden** is Millennium Park's "secret garden," designed by world-renowned landscape architect Piet Oudolf. This naturalistic oasis offers rest and renewal for people and wildlife while modeling responsible urban horticulture. A leader in landscape architecture and garden design, Lurie Garden supports diverse plant and insect life and offers engaging educational programs in the heart of Chicago.

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**Chicago Architecture Boat Tour:** Explore Chicago's architectural legacy through guided river and walking tours that highlight its iconic skyline and historic neighborhoods. From docent-led river cruises with the Chicago Architecture Center to immersive walking tours uncovering hidden details, these experiences offer engaging insights into the city's world-famous architecture.

**Happy Hour at Hotel 5-6pm**

**Dinner on Your Own in Downtown Chicago, IL (attendees to cover cost)**

# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

**Sunday September 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. We will enjoy lunch at the Garden View Cafe.

**THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING FREE ADMISSION**

**Drive to FINAL DESTINATION: Grand Rapids, MI**

**Happy Hour at Hotel 6-7pm**

**International Banquet 7-9pm**



# Welcome To **MICHIGAN**



# ITINERARY

**Monday, Sept. 21**

**International Committee Meetings**

**Lunch and Tour at Garden Solutions**

**Tour and Dinner at Hortech Inc.**

**Accommodation:  
Amway Plaza Hotel**



**Tuesday - Friday  
Sept. 22 to Sept. 25**

**9/22: Tours & Welcome Reception  
(DINNER ON YOUR OWN)**

**9/23: Full-day Educational Sessions**

**9/24: Full day of tours**

**9/25: Half-day educational sessions**

**TOUR CONCLUDES AT 12:30pm**

**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

**Monday September 21**

**International Committee Meetings 8-11am**

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**Free morning for those not attending the International Committee Meetings**

**Self-guided tour recommendations:**

- Art Prize- a world-class competition where artwork is displayed throughout the city
- Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum
- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum

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**Garden Solutions:** Owned by nurseryman and plant breeder Chris Hansen, this well-respected nursery is known for high-quality, innovative plant material. Chris is widely recognized for his plant breeding and introductions, including the popular ChickCharms® line of *Sempervivum*, as well as improved Feathered Friends® *Ajuga*, Sunsparkler® hardy sedums, and other ornamental perennials selected for strong color, compact habit, and garden performance. Additionally, the team has created a large rock garden display space featuring their introductions.

**THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS**

**Hortech Inc.:** owned by Dave MacKenzie, is a leader in sustainable horticulture specializing in green roof and living wall systems. Through its LiveRoof® and LiveWall® businesses, Hortech also grows and breeds a wide array of hardy, climate-adapted perennials selected for durability, ecological function, and performance in challenging environments. Their diverse plant offerings support green infrastructure, urban landscapes, and naturalistic plantings across North America.

**Dinner and Stand-Up Comedy by Rick Vuyst 5-8pm**

# **EASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONFERENCE DETAILS**

## **“Motivation for Innovation”**

Be inspired by thought provoking speakers and exceptional tour stops. Become energized by the latest ideas in plant breeding and production to take it to the next level. Build professional connections within the plant production industry. Discover your motivation for innovation on a Grand scale this September!

September 22-25, 2026  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Tuesday, September 22:** Pre-Conference Tours; Welcome Reception at Hotel; Dinner on Your Own (attendees cover cost)

**Wednesday, September 23:** Eastern Region Meeting official begins; all- day Education Sessions; Silent Auction; Dinner on Your Own (attendees cover cost)

**Thursday, September 24:** All day tours; Banquet & Live Auction at Spring Meadow Nursery

# EASTERN REGION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

**Walter's Gardens:** What began as a small, family-run 5-acre farm growing perennials for local suppliers has grown into a 1,500-acre operation with more than 750,000 square feet of greenhouse space. Still family-owned, the company remains rooted in the values that shaped its success. Walters Gardens is internationally recognized for its extensive breeding program, developing thousands of new perennial selections each year with a focus on improved performance, disease resistance, and garden reliability. This commitment to genetics has led to an expansive portfolio of plant introductions, long-standing customer relationships, and a close partnership with Proven Winners®, as the exclusive home of Proven Winners® Perennials.

**Garden's Alive Farms:** Based near Lake Michigan in Grand Haven the company operates 1,200 acres of field, container, and greenhouse production, using the region's cool, lake-moderated climate to grow a wide range of cold-hardy plants. Founded in the 1980s, Gardens Alive! operates as a mail-order and online nursery, delivering a wide range of plants, from houseplants and perennials to shrubs, conifers, and trees. They also sell seed and gardening solutions directly to home gardeners with an emphasis on education and success across diverse climates.

**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.

# EASTERN REGION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

**Degrandchamp Farms:** DeGrandchamp Farms began in 1958 as a 12-acre blueberry farm and has grown into a diversified operation with 200 acres of blueberries, 40 acres of cranberries, and about 7 acres of container nursery stock and greenhouses. The farm includes a modern packing and shipping facility, farm market, and offices, and remains proudly family-run. Today, Judy Johnson manages office and retail operations, Mike DeGrandchamp oversees nursery and greenhouse production, Joe DeGrandchamp leads blueberry operations, and Bob DeGrandchamp manages cranberry care and harvest, with all 11 grandchildren having worked on the farm at one time or another.

**Mast Young Plants:** Visitors to the trial garden will find popular plant series displayed alongside competitor lines, allowing for easy performance comparisons and confident selection. The compact, efficient layout makes it simple to walk the aisles and evaluate in-ground trials, container trials, and more than 500 unique combination planters. Designed to inspire creativity, the trials showcase how different varieties interact, often revealing unexpected and beautiful combinations.

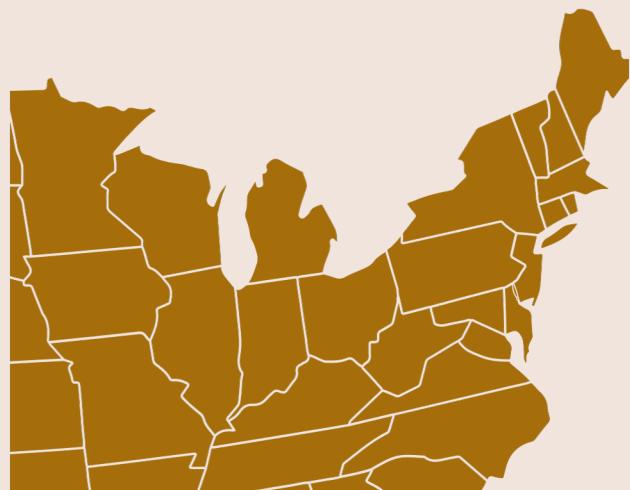
**Spring Meadow Nursery:** Established in 1981 by Dale and Liz Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery has grown into a leading wholesale propagation nursery specializing in shrubs, vines, and small trees. Located in Grand Haven, Michigan, the family-owned business offers over 400 cultivars to more than 3,000 nurseries, 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.

**THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING DINNER & REFRESHMENTS**

# EASTERN REGION FACTS

Amid a sea of people, the Eastern Region represents vital islands of green within the most geographically, ecologically, and socially diverse part of the United States. Spanning 20 states and home to more than 43% of the nation's population, it is the country's most urbanized region. Within these boundaries, 57 sites have been identified as candidate or potential Research Natural Areas (RNAs), currently in various stages of review for possible establishment.

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



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

## 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.