

Ohio Floriculture & Nursery Conference 2025

October 16, 2025

All times are in Eastern US Standard Time (EST)

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex | 2515 Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210

8:00 – 8:10 AM Welcome and Introductions

Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University

8:10 – 9:00 AM Invited Keynote Speaker

The Low-Down on the Down-Low: Innovations in the Growing Media Market

Dr. Brian Jackson, North Carolina State University

More wood fiber-containing substrates are on the market now than ever before which provides growers with purchasing options but also generates questions regarding which products may be best for their operation. This presentation will discuss all wood products currently on the market (including European products sold in the US) and summarize their differences (or similarities) to aid in growers' decision making process. Additionally, data will be provided on wood inclusion rates, material handling and management, as well as discussion about the future of wood substrates in horticulture.

9:00 – 9:50 AM Modifications of In-vitro Micro-climate Conditions for the Successful Acclimatization of Tissue Cultured Plants

Dr. Chieri Kubota, The Ohio State University

Tissue culture has been an important method for producing virus-free planting materials across many crop species. However, growers frequently face plant losses during acclimatization due to low survival rates. The primary reasons are poor ability to control water loss and insufficient root development of tissue cultured plants. This presentation highlights the unique microclimate conditions inside tissue culture vessels and discusses how modification of these conditions can enhance in-vitro rooting and improve survival of tissue cultured plants during ex-vitro acclimatization.

9:50 – 10:05 AM Break

Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)

10:05 – 10:55 AM D.C. Kiplinger Floriculture Endowed Chair Keynote Presentation

Biostimulants: Applications for Floriculture Production

Dr. Michelle Jones, The Ohio State University

Biostimulants can be used in floriculture production to promote plant growth and enhance stress tolerance, but do these products do all that they claim? What type of biostimulants are available and what should you consider before choosing a product to try? In this seminar you will learn about the types of biostimulants and how they may be influenced by growing environment, substrate composition, plant species, and fertilizer applications. Learn about successes, challenges, and the importance of conducting in-house trials.

10:55 – 11:45 PM Advances in the Detection and Identification of Major Insect Pests of Greenhouse Crops

Dr. Luis Cañas, The Ohio State University

Dr. Canas will present information about the latest techniques to identify and scout for insect pest in greenhouse crops. He will also provide information about current pest management techniques including biological control and chemical control. He will provide information about the use of biopesticides to control major pests in greenhouse crops.

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11:45 – 1:00 PM	Lunch & Sponsor Presentations Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)
1:00 – 1:50 PM	Boost Your Roots with Foliar IBA Rooting Hormone Applications Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University <i>Rooting hormones can be used to promote rooting of greenhouse herbaceous and woody ornamental cuttings. This session is designed to share the ins and outs to boost your roots during cutting propagation with foliar IBA rooting hormones. Additionally, we will cover the crops that benefit from rooting hormones and those where its use is essential for rooting success.</i>
1:50 – 2:40 PM	Invited Keynote Speaker Wood Fiber Substrates in Greenhouse and Nursery Production Dr. Brian Jackson, North Carolina State University <i>More wood fiber-containing substrates are on the market now than ever before which provides growers with purchasing options but also generates questions regarding which products may be best for their operation. This presentation will discuss all wood products currently on the market (including European products sold in the US) and summarize their differences (or similarities) to aid in growers' decision-making process. Additionally, data will be provided on wood inclusion rates, material handling and management, as well as discussion about the future of wood substrates in horticulture.</i>
2:40 – 3:30 PM	Back to Basics: Pesticide Safety and Regulations Dr. Mimi Rose, The Ohio State University <i>In this update we'll review basic pesticide safety principles and how to lower the risk to you, the environment, and others when using pesticides. We'll also revisit some important regulations affecting pesticide applicators.</i>
3:30 – 3:40 PM	Break Visit Sponsor Booths (In-Person Participants) and Posters to learn about The Latest and Greatest: OSU Floriculture and Nursery Research & Updates (In-Person Participants)
3:40 – 4:30 PM	Invited Keynote Speaker Water and Nutrient Management in Peat-reduced Substrates Dr. Brian Jackson, North Carolina State University <i>Growers who choose to transition to peat-reduced or peat-free substrates are often faced with many questions regarding crop management strategies in these new mixes. This presentation will highlight current research, grower feedback, and management strategies for irrigation and nutrient management for greenhouse crops in peat-reduced substrates.</i>
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Better Crops with a Small Energy Bill Dr. Peter Ling, The Ohio State University <i>Growers are increasingly looking for ways to maximize crop yields while minimizing energy consumption. This talk will focus on energy conservation, heating efficiency, and environmental control strategies of greenhouse operation to improve energy efficiency of spring crop production.</i>
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks Dr. W. Garrett Owen, The Ohio State University
5:00 – 5:15 PM	Tour Preparation (In-Person Participants)
5:15 – 6:15 PM	CEARC Tour (In-Person Participants)