



Welcome new Executive Director Greg Bird

Michigan Onion Committee Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey has accepted a new position. "Working with the Michigan onion growers has been a great experience. I have enjoyed my on-farm visits and getting to know everyone," said Val Vail-Shirey. Vail-Shirey has accepted a position with the Michigan House of Representatives in the role of legislative director to State Representative Julie Alexander, District 64. Representative Alexander chairs the Michigan House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

Greg Bird has accepted the position of Executive Director with the Michigan Onion Committee (MOC) and officially joined MOC on Friday, March 1, 2019. Both Vail-Shirey and Bird attended the MOC meeting for a smooth transition. Greg also serves as the Executive Director for the Michigan Vegetable Council. Greg lives in Mason with his wife and two children. Greg's daughter is a high school student and his son is a sophomore at Michigan State University.

Greg can be reached at gbird@michiganvegetablecouncil.org or 517-663-6725.

Research Reports Available

Onion Weed Control Research Report 2018 by Bernard Zandstra
Onion Nitrogen Management Research Update by Zachary Hayden
Onion Variety Observation Trials by Darryl Warncke
Programs for Control of Stemphylium leaf blight of onions

by Dr. Mary Hausbeck

For copies of the research reports, visit www.michiganonion.com or
contact the office at 517-663-6725.

**[Michigan Department of Treasury: Estimated Tax Penalty for Farmers,
Fishermen Waived](#)**

Treasury Following IRS Actions Due to Federal Rule Changes

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Treasury is [following the Internal Revenue Service](#) and waiving the estimated tax penalty for any qualifying farmer or fisherman who files his or her 2018 state income tax return and pays any tax due by Monday, April 15, 2019.

This tax relief is being provided by the IRS and state Treasury Department because certain federal rule changes have caused difficulty for many farmers and fishermen to accurately determine their tax liability by the March 1 deadline that usually applies to them.

For the 2018 tax year, an individual who received at least two-thirds of his or her total gross income from farming or fishing during 2017 or 2018 qualifies as a farmer or fisherman.

To be eligible for the waiver, qualifying Michigan farmers and fishermen must attach [IRS Form 2210-F](#) to their 2018 state income tax return.

The taxpayer's name and identifying number, usually a Social Security number, must be entered at the top of [IRS Form 2210-F](#). The waiver box—Part I, Box A—should be checked. The rest of the form should be left blank.

No additional state tax form needs to be completed to receive this tax relief.

Upcoming Meeting

Onion Committee Board Meeting

Thursday, June 13

Greenhouse disease and insect recommendations

Insect and disease management recommendations for the 2019 growing season

EAST LANSING, Mich. — [Michigan State University Extension](#) entomology specialist for ornamentals [David Smitley](#) has released his “[2019 Greenhouse Insect Management](#)” recommendations. These are the recommended products to control thrips, aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, broad and cyclamen mites, fungus gnats, mealybugs and Florida fern caterpillar.

MSU Extension plant pathologist [Mary Hausbeck](#) has released her new “[Greenhouse Disease Management 2019 Season](#)” recommendations. The products are classified as either “A” or “B” team products. The “A” team products provide the best control for the diseases, and “B” team products are those that provide control and are good to include in a spray rotation.

In addition, Hausbeck and her colleagues have also released a [new guide for disease management specifically for vegetable and herb crops](#). The new guide provides the following information about each registered product for vegetable transplants and herbs: 1) active ingredient, 2) trade name of the product, 3) FRAC code (numbers based on the mode of action of the active ingredient) and 4) re-entry interval. The disease recommendations are grouped by crop groups: 1) Brassica, 2) Cucurbit, 3) Leafy, 4) Fruiting, and 5) Herbs. Within each crop grouping, the table lists whether it is registered for use for: bacterial blight, downy mildew, leaf spot, powdery mildew, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia or Sclerotinia.

If you have questions about these insect and disease management recommendations, contact the author or your local [MSU Extension greenhouse educator](#).

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— Heidi Lindberg, Michigan State University Extension

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