

Fall 2023 Michigan Onion Committee Newsletter



Michigan Onion Newsletter  
6835 S Krepps Rd  
St Johns, MI 48879

Onion Committee Meeting Calendar

Date	Location	Time
Nov 2, 2023	MOC Annual Meeting, Michigan Corn Bldg 13750 S Sedona Pkwy #5, DeWitt, MI 48820, USA	12:00pm
March 5, 2024	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	10:00am
June 6, 2024	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	12:00pm
August 2024	MOC twilight onion trials and dinner	5:30pm



Michigan Onion Assessments

**Please send assessments to:**  
Michigan Onion Committee  
6835 S Krepps Rd  
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2023 onions are harvested. The Michigan Onion Committee is ready to receive onion assessments for the year. If you are a grower or packer, regardless of whether you receive this newsletter in the mail or via email, it will include a 2023 assessment form and instructions. Any questions or concerns please contact Greg Bird at [gbird@michiganonion.com](mailto:gbird@michiganonion.com) or 517-663-6725.

## Current Onion Research

Some updates have been made to the Michigan Onion Committee website:[michiganonion.com](http://michiganonion.com). These updates should make it easier to find previous onion trial results and NOA stats, as well as give access to prior newsletters and research projects.

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)	Combining Pest Control Strategies to Increase Quality of Yield of Michigan Onions. One item this grant will investigate is whether onion thrips spread foliar diseases. Dr. Zsofia Szendrei and Dr. Ben Werling will be playing contributing roles in this project.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	Onion Thrips and Foliar Disease Management in Commercial Onions in Michigan. This project will develop a new onion thrips action threshold based on disease management. The project will also determine the effect of plastic mulches on onion thrips management.	MSU, Dr. Zsofia Szendrei's lab
MSU - GREEN	Identifying Alternate Hosts for Stemphylium Can Protect Michigan Onions. Year 1 - 2023 and Year 2 - 2024	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	NEW, 2023-2025 - Influence of Tip/Leaf Burn and New Fungicides on Onion Stemphylium Leaf Blight	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab

## 2023 Great Lakes Expo is Dec 5-7

2023 Room Blocks at the Amway Grand, JW Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Hyatt Place, and Holiday Inn are open. ([glexpo.com](http://glexpo.com)) By this time of year, some I'm sure are already sold out. It's always best to make your reservations in February or March. The Canopy hotel in Grand Rapids is rather new and is offering an Expo rate.

PETERSON FARM BROS and their farm business and the benefit of having popular social media videos will present on the Valent Trade Show Stage on December 6 at 11:30am. Peterson Farm Bros will also talk in the Farm Market session at 3pm on December 6.

## Ag Tech @ 2023 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo

Did you know that the trade show underwent a bit of a redesign? The Farm Market Hall and the Main Hall both have areas for roundtable discussions. The Valent Main Hall Stage has a full schedule. The stage is at the end of Main Street. There will be several dozen new Ag Tech exhibitors in the Innovation Aisle. Many of these exhibitors are focused on labor saving innovations. To see who, go to <https://glexpo23.expofp.com/>

Do you have a need for Ag Tech, then consider attending the Ag Tech Symposium on December 7 from 9am-2:30pm. The innovation companies and others in the innovation space are going to be present to have discussions and hear from others on what needs done to have the latest and greatest Ag Tech supporting the specialty crops in the Great Lakes. The Ag Tech Symposium is included with your Expo registration. Please read more about the agenda at [glexpo.com](http://glexpo.com). If you plan to attend the lunch portion (12-2:30pm) please sign up with the next link so we have a head count. (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/698549469267?aff=oddtcreator>)

**Meet The Buyers returns to Expo, December 6 at 4pm in the Main Hall networking area.**

Go SUBSCRIBE to MI Vegetable Council on YOUTUBE (<https://www.youtube.com/@michiganvegetablecouncil/playlists>) (6 years of vegetable award videos, 2023 MI Eastside flooding, and MVC mascots)

**MSU is hosting Restricted Use Pesticide License Core Review and Testing at Expo on Thursday Dec 7, details at:** <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024RUPInPersonTesting/>

## Executive Director's Notes

Having a solid presence in Michigan has helped when dealing with issues that pertain to both the State and Federal Government. For example, East and Southeast Michigan have had some serious floods. The Michigan Vegetable Council is using its connections in the State and in DC to try to get help sent our way. The bulk of this work still has to be done by the individual farms and USDA-FSA. This may lead us to taking a deep dive into available vegetable crop insurance options during a workshop at the 2024 Expo. For now we are hoping to get some county level vegetable disaster declarations made.