

GREAT PLAINS GROWERS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW



*A three-day conference for
beginning and seasoned growers.*
January 12-14, 2017

Jean-Martin Fortier, author of "The Market Gardener: A Successful Growers Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming" is the 2017 keynote speaker. "**The Market Gardener**" was winner of the 2015 American Horticulture Society book award. With his wife, Maude-Hélène Desroches, he runs Les Jardins de la Grelinette, an internationally recognized 10-acre micro-farm in Quebec, Canada. With only 1½ acres cultivated in permanent beds, the farm grosses more than \$100,000 per acre with operating margins of about 60 percent, enough to financially sustain his family. The focus at la Grelinette has been to grow better, not bigger, in order to optimize the cropping system, making it more lucrative and viable in the process. According to Jean-Martin, "The goal is to increase production and have more of a life every year. When we produce more, we want to work less."



Jean-Martin provides beginning farmers with a solid framework to be successful with their own farms. From soil preparation to crop rotation strategies and dealing with insect pests, discover how he manages the farm without the use of a tractor or any heavy machinery. He will share his journey in developing a successful farm, along with tools and techniques for successful, profitable, human-scale vegetable growing. Jean-Martin's farming strategy places a strong emphasis on intelligent farm design, appropriate technologies and harnessing the power of soil biology as key components of successful farming.

**Fulkerson
Center**

**Missouri
Western State
University**

**St. Joseph,
Missouri**

Great Plains Growers Conference 2017 features:

- ◆ *A keynote address and presentations by knowledgeable speakers from across the nation.*
- ◆ *Educational information from five states: Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri & South Dakota, along with vegetable and fruit growers from those states.*
- ◆ *A venue that is easy to travel to/from using interstate highways; classrooms with the latest technology to support learning; a dining experience with multiple choice stations; ADA compliant and classrooms, cafeteria, and trade show area, all within two connected buildings on campus.*
- ◆ *A 50-plus exhibitor trade show featuring the latest seeds, supplies, equipment and grower information.*
- ◆ *Poster sessions providing valuable university research.*
- ◆ *Hands-on learning opportunities, including a soil health clinic*

Greenhouse/ Hydroponics

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Many growers are interested to learn how they can produce more crops year around in heated greenhouse production systems. This workshop will provide an overview of options available including greenhouse structures and considerations, basic hydroponic management, integrated pest management and aquaponics. The presenters include industry representatives from greenhouse companies, extension educators, and practitioners of greenhouse and aquaponic production systems.

Introduction

Growing Your Business in Greenhouses -
Mike Rimol, Rimol Greenhouses

TBD

Break

Managing Greenhouse Pests and Mites for Food Crops - *Ray Cloy, KSU*

LUNCH

Increasing Energy Efficiency in Greenhouses
-Marc Plinke, CERES

Options in Aquaponics - *Andy McGhee, Windy City Harvest*

Break

Managing Worm-Based Nutrient Solutions -
Andy McGhee

Soil Health

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sustaining soil health is an important aspect for maintaining the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of any farming operation. For fruits and vegetables, this can be a difficult task due to the intensive nature of the production systems. This Soil Health workshop will focus on easily-adoptable practices and conservation agriculture technologies geared to a successful fruit and vegetable operation. Among the topics covered will be reduced tillage and cover cropping to build organic matter and soil health, an overview of soil life (microbiology) and the importance of knowing the difference between pH and calcium in making informed decisions on the farm.

Reduced Tillage & Cover Cropping Systems for Organic Vegetable Production— *Ron Morse, Virginia Tech*

Break

Reduced Tillage... (continued) - *Ron Morse*

LUNCH

Prairie Birthday Farm-A Small Farmer's Approach to Soil Health—
Linda Henzel, Owner

USDA-ARS Soil Quality in Agroecosystems, Development & Refinement of Soil Quality Indicators - *Kristen Veum, ARS-USDA*

Break

Calcium, pH & Soil Health— *Tim Reinbott, MU*

Tree Fruit

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Successful tree fruit production requires a great deal of knowledge about insect & disease control and good tree management. In this workshop, participants will learn from experienced growers and Extension specialists about orchard planting decisions, managing young trees, pest control and how spray droplet size affects pesticide efficacy.

Orchard Planting Decisions - *Grower Panel*

2017 Midwest Fruit Spray Guide Update -
Patrick Byers, MU & Diana Cochran, ISU

Break

Effect of Orchard Management Practices on Peach Tree Growth, Yield & Soil Ecology-
Connie Fisk, UNL Extension

LUNCH

Managing Replant & Young Trees
Matt Stasiak, University of WI-Madison

Break

Spraying Fruit Crops: Understanding Droplets & Improving Deposition -
Andrew Landers, Cornell University

Honey Bees

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Leo Shirashkin presents a program for independent-minded beekeepers seeking ways to keep bees without treating them with chemicals, disrupting their homes, and otherwise intruding on their lives. Whether you are a beginner curious about bees or an experienced beekeeper looking for natural alternatives that work, this class is for you!

Keys to Natural Beekeeping: Starting with Local Bees— *Leo Sharashkin, HorizontalHive.com*

Break

Choosing an Ideal Hive: Your Options & Horizontal Hive Advantages — *Leo Sharashkin*

LUNCH

Managing Your Apiary: What to Do and NOT to Do - *Leo Sharashkin*

Break

Not by Clover Alone: Native Honey Plants for Bees - *Leo Sharashkin*

FSMA Grower Training

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration. Lead presenter is Londa Nwadike and Facilitator James Quinn.

Intro to Produce Safety

Worker Health, Hygiene, & Training

Soil Amendments

Break

Wildlife, Domesticated Animals & Land Use

LUNCH

**Agricultural Water-Part I:
Production Water-Part II:
Postharvest Water**

Postharvest Handling & Sanitation

Break

How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

Mushrooms

8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Joe Krawczyk, co-owner of Field and Forest Products, will teach participants about mushroom biology, selection criteria, growing, and marketing. Each program is sequenced to build upon the previous programs.

Biology & Cultivation of Mushrooms - *Joe Krawczyk, Field and Forest*

What Mushrooms Should I Grow - *Joe Krawczyk*

Break

What Mushrooms Should I Grow, cont'd. - *Joe Krawczyk*

LUNCH

Growing Woodland Mushrooms - *Joe Krawczyk*

Growing Mushrooms for a Farm Market - *Joe Krawczyk*

Break

Growing Mushrooms for a Farm Market, cont'd.- *Joe Krawczyk*

Enjoy refreshments in the Trade Show area during breaks, plus a cash bar and snacks from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday evening.

Registration & Trade Show Open at 8 am

9:00 AM: Welcome and Keynote (Jean-Martin Fortier)

Tree Fruit

AM Sessions

Spraying Fruit Crops: Understanding Airflow to Improve Deposition and Reduce Drift - Andrew Landers, Cornell

PM Sessions

Spraying Fruit Crops: New Developments - Andrew Landers
Rootstock Update - Matt Stasiak, University of WI-Madison
Grafting - Patrick O'Malley, ISU

Vegetable IPM

AM Sessions

My Ecological Pest Management Approach in Organic & Conventional Vegetable Production - Scott Thellman, Juniper Hill Farms

Ecological Pest Management in High Tunnels - Jaime Pinero, LU

PM Sessions

Disease Management in Tomatoes: What Worked & What Did Not? - Dennis Hatfield, Hatfield's Tomato & Strawberry Farm

Weed Control in Plasticulture on My Farm and Tunnels - Dennis Hatfield

Integrated Approaches of Foliar Disease Management on Tomatoes & Cucumbers - Zelalem Mersha, LU

Updates on the 2017 Midwest Vegetable Production Guide - James Quinn, MU

Farm Mechanization

AM Sessions

Farm Labor Shortage & High Cost Call for the Need for Farm Mechanization - Touria Eaton, LU,

Ten Must-have Equipment for High Profitability in Small Farms - Curtis Millsap, Millsap Farms

PM Sessions

Ten Must-have Equipment...cont'd. - Curtis Millsap

Agrifutural Machinery Illumination & Safety Act - Edwin Brokesh, KSU

Mechanization for Harvest & Postharvest Handling of Fruit & Vegetables - Randy Beaudry, Michigan State University

Harvesting Biomass for Bioenergy as Impacted by Equipment & Labor Costs - Edwin Brokesh, KSU

Evaporatively Cooled Rooms for Storing Perishables: Designs to Accommodate Solar Powered Refrigeration - Randy Beaudry

Mechanization for Farm Value Added: Small Scale Biodiesel Production - Edwin Brokesh

Advanced Organic

AM Sessions

Getting Started with High Tunnels - Cary Rivard, KSRE
Growing in the City at Woodland City Organics - Neal Rudisill, Woodland City Organics

PM Sessions

10 Small Farm Tools for Success - Jean-Martin Fortier, Keynote Speaker

Fertility Planning to Increase Soil & Organic Matter & Sequester - Tom Ruggieri, Fair Share Farm

Basic Postharvest Handling Methods - Kostas Batziakas, KSU

Design, Construction & Operation of a Passive Solar Greenhouse - Tom Ruggieri

Farm to School

AM Sessions

Missouri Farm to School- Keeping the Momentum! - Lorin Fahrmeier, MU

PM Sessions

Iowa on the Move: Doing What Works - Tammy Stotts, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture

Breaking Barriers & Making Food - Barb Shaw, MO Dept. of Agriculture & Lisa Farmer, MO Dept. of Health

USDA Farm to School Market Report Update - Jodi Pitcock, USDA Market Development

Innovative Approaches to Youth Immersion on Your Farm - Rod Barr, NW MO State University

Research Update

AM Sessions

Elderberries - Patrick Byers, MU

Herbicide Effects on Grapes - Paul Read, UNL

Perennial Food Crops in Iowa - Diana Cochran

PM Sessions

Northern Grape Project & Pumpkin IPM - Rhoda Burrows

Grafting Bell Peppers in High Tunnels - David Loewen, KSU

Yield & Quality of Spring Planted, Day-Neutral Strawberries in a High Tunnel - Kelly Gude, KSU

Utilization of Modified Atmosphere Packaging to Increase Shelf Life - Kostas Batziakas

Growing Organic Sweet Potato Slips in High Tunnels - Zac Hoppenstedt, KSU

Non-Chemical Weed Control in Vegetable Crops - Sam Wortman, University of NE

Impact of Grafting on High Tunnel Tomatoes - Ajay Nair, ISU

Enhancing Postharvest Quality & Shelf Life of Locally-Grown Vegetables - Eleni Pliokoni, Helena Chiebao & Cary Rivard

***** Be sure to stay after Friday sessions for Growers Association Meetings at 5:00 pm *****

After the Grower's Association Meetings, join us in Spratt 214-216 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for the Growers Innovation Night! We will be offering a light pizza dinner during Innovation Night. Moderators: Chuck Marr, Tom Fowler, Ajay Nair & Cary Rivard. Bring your ideas on new equipment designs, growing and marketing techniques, etc. Compete for fabulous prizes, including free conference registration for 2018.

Vegetable Production

AM Sessions

Reflections from a First Year Vegetable Farmer: Successes & Lessons Learned - *Dana Jokela, Sogn Valley Farm*

Beyond the Bell: The Diverse World of Capsicums - *Mark Uchanski, CSU*

Snap & Pole Beans for Local Markets - *Lewis Jett, WVU*

PM Sessions

Recommended Tomato Cultivars from KSU Master Gardener Trials - *Charles Barden, KSU*

Fine-tuning Strip-tillage Systems for Muskmelon Production - *John Krzton-Presson, ISU*

Beginning Organic

AM Sessions

Start with the End in Mind-Planning for Profit - *Jean-Martin Fortier, Keynote*

Conservation Practices in Organic Systems - *Tom Buller, Kansas Rural Center*

The Organic Certification Process-The First Time - *Jackie Keller, Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)*

Introduction to Organic Pest Management - *Jaime Piñero, LU*

PM Sessions

The Tools to Get Started Right - *Curtis Millsap, Millsap Farms*

Cover Crops & Their Multiple Uses - *Tom Buller*

Small Fruit

AM Sessions

Raspberry Production in Warm Climates - *Gina Fernandez, NCSU*

Strawberry Breeding and the Future - *Gina Fernandez, Strawberry Production* - *Vaughn Hammond, Kimmel Orchard*

PM Sessions

Updates in the 2017 Small Fruit & Grape Spray Guide - *Patrick Byers, MU*

Postharvest Handling of Berries - *Eleni Pliokoni, KSU*

Spotted Wing Drosophila & Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Update & Pest Management Recommendations for 2017 - *Jaime Piñero, LU*

Small Fruit Processing & Handling - *Clint Wostrel, Union Orchard*

Cut Flowers

AM Sessions

Farm Introductions-Virtual Tours of Greenstone Fields & Brightflower Farm - *Barbara Lamborne & Jeanie McKewan*

Market to Market Greenstone Fields & Brightflower Farm-Marketing Strategies

PM Sessions

Top Ten Flowers Grown at Greenstone Fields & Brightflower Farm

Selling Local Foods

AM Sessions

Agritourism & U-Pick - *Marlin Bates, KSU*

Farmers' Markets - *Debi Kelly, MU*

Customer Service & Merchandising - *Rhoda Burrows, SDSU*

Restaurants - *Linda Naeve, ISU*

Food Safety Update - *Sarah Browning, UNL Extension*

Kitchens & Value Added Foods - *Debi Kelly*

PM Sessions

Consumer Supported Agriculture (CSA) - *Linda Naeve*

Grocery Stores - *Sarah Browning*

Wholesale - *James Quinn, MU*

Season Extension

AM Sessions

Carrot & Root Crop Production in High Tunnels - *Lewis Jett, WVU*

Economics & Budgets in High Tunnel Production - *Scott Thellman, Juniper Hill Farms*

Strawberry Production in Vertical Stackers - *Joe Hannan, ISU*

PM Sessions

Winter Production of Leafy Greens in the Western US Using High Tunnels - *Mark Uchanski, CSU*

Breaking Away from Tomatoes: Rotation Options in High Tunnels - *Cary Rivard, KSU*



2017 Great Plains Growers Conference is sponsored in part by SARE

End of Conference

Have a safe trip home. We hope to see you in 2018!

Registration—To register online, go to www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org or complete the registration form included in this program and postmark no later than December 31, 2016 to avoid a \$30 late fee.

Cancellation/Refund Policy—We will refund your registration fee if the University of Missouri Extension office receives your written request by December 31, 2016. No refunds will be processed after this date, however substitutions are welcome. Mail your requests to GPGC, MU Extension, 4125 Mitchell Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64507.

If inclement weather should prevent your attendance, no refunds will be provided. Cancellation of the conference would only occur if the Missouri Western State University campus closed. Significant expenses are incurred in it's commitment to hold this annual conference.

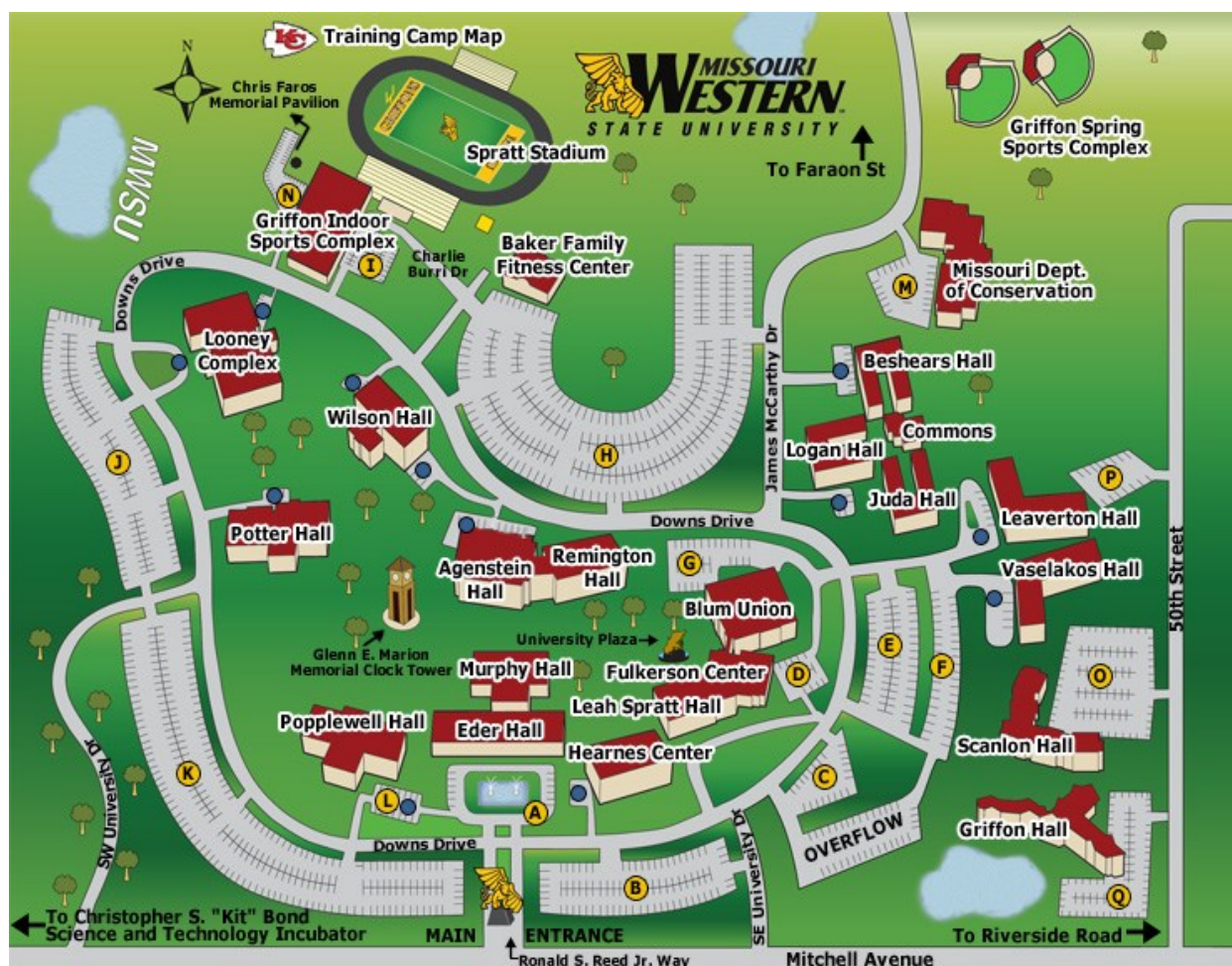
Lodging—Our Headquarter Hotels are Stoney Creek Inn –1201 N. Woodbine (816) 901-9600 (block ID 5218959 - reserve by 12/12/16), Hampton Inn — 3928 Frederick — (816) 390-9300 (no group number needed, just mention Great Plains Growers Conference-reserve by 12/20/16), and Drury Inn, 4213 Frederick (816) 364-4700 (group # 2287424- reserve by 12/10/16) Most of these hotels offer a discount rate for our attendees. Reservations made after dates listed with block ID information will be provided on a space-available basis at prevailing rates.

Alternative Hotels in St. Joseph:

ABVI 4023 Frederick (816) 364-3031
Candlewood Suites, 3505 Village Dr (800) 980-6467
Hampton Inn 3928 Frederick (816) 390-9300
Motel 6 4021 Frederick (816) 232-2311
Whiskey Mansion Bed & Breakfast, 1723 Francis St, 816-676-1529

Best Western 4502 S. 169 Hwy. (816) 232-2345
Days Inn 4312 Frederick (816) 279-1671
Holiday Inn 3rd & Felix St. (816) 279-8000
Holiday Inn Express, 3600 Village Dr, (816) 232-2500
Museum Hill Bed & Breakfast, 1102 Felix St, 816-387-9663

For a map of the city of St. Joseph: www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/citymap.pdf
St. Joseph Convention Bureau: www.stjomo.com



From Interstate 29, take the Frederick Avenue Exit 47. Go west past the Ramada Inn to first intersection. Turn south (left) on Woodbine. At second light on Woodbine, there will be a T-intersection. Go east (left) on Mitchell Avenue. You will go back over Interstate 29. Turn onto the campus at traffic light on Southeast University Drive. Turn right at Leah Spratt Building. The Fulkerson Center is connected to the Leah Spratt Building. We will have the parking and entrance to the Fulkerson Center marked. From the parking lot directly to the east of the Fulkerson Center, is a ramped entrance into the conference area.

Great Plains Growers Conference—January 12-14, 2017

Registration Form

~ Must be postmarked by December 31, 2016 for pre-registration—after, late registration will be available.

Please print clearly as it should appear on your name badge

Name (1) _____ Name (2) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please check the following: Grower Educator Hobbyist Industry Related Other _____

If student registration, Name of Institution _____

Student ID will be required at registration check-in to confirm full-time student status. Should student status not be verified, you will be subject to the applicable conference fee charge.

Greenhouse/Hydroponics

Soil Health

Pre-Conference Workshops Thursday, January 12, 2017 (all-day workshops, select one per attendee)

attending _____ @ \$55; (\$25/student); \$ _____

attending _____ @ \$55; (\$25/student) \$ _____

Honey Bees

attending _____ @ \$55; (\$25/student) \$ _____
\$ _____

Tree Fruit

attending _____ @ \$55; (\$25/student)

Mushrooms

attending _____ @ \$55; (\$25/student) \$ _____
\$ _____

FSMA Grower Training

attending _____ @ \$95; (\$25/student)

* Attendees will receive a certificate that documents their meeting the training requirements of FSMA and the extensive, official "Grower Training" manual

\$ _____

Workshop Total

Conference Tracks Friday/Saturday January 13 & 14, 2017

Friday

attending _____ @ \$45; (\$25/student) \$ _____

Saturday

attending _____ @ \$45; (\$25/student) \$ _____

Friday/Saturday Total \$ _____

\$30 Late Registration Fee (postmarked after December 31, 2016) \$ _____

Method of Payment

Check # _____ Check type of card:



Credit card payment is processed through University of Missouri.

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ 3 digit code on back _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Make check payable to **Missouri University Extension**. Mail to GPGC, MU Extension, 4125 Mitchell Ave. St. Joseph, MO 64507. There is a \$25 fee for all returned checks.

Buchanan County Extension
4125 Mitchell Ave
St. Joseph, MO 64507



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Please notify us if you wish to discontinue receiving conference information: 816-279-1691 or buchananco@missouri.edu

Conference questions?? Contact Buchanan County Extension (816) 279-1691 or visit

www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org

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If you have a disability that requires special materials or services, please contact Buchanan County Extension at (816) 279-1691 or buchananco@missouri.edu at least ten (10) days prior to the day you plan to attend.