Developing Specialty Cut Flower Production in Missouri During The Winter Months

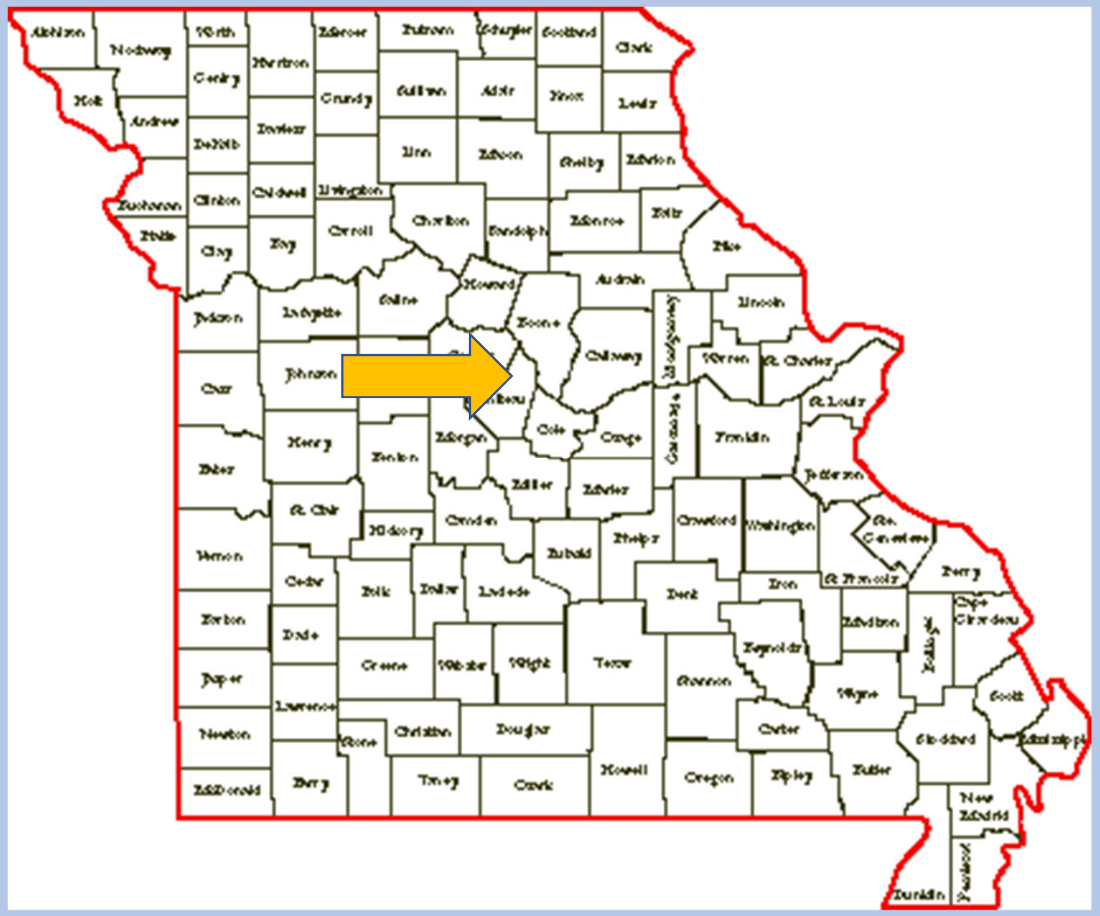
A Joint Research Project Comparing 3 Farms

&

3 Different Growing Methods

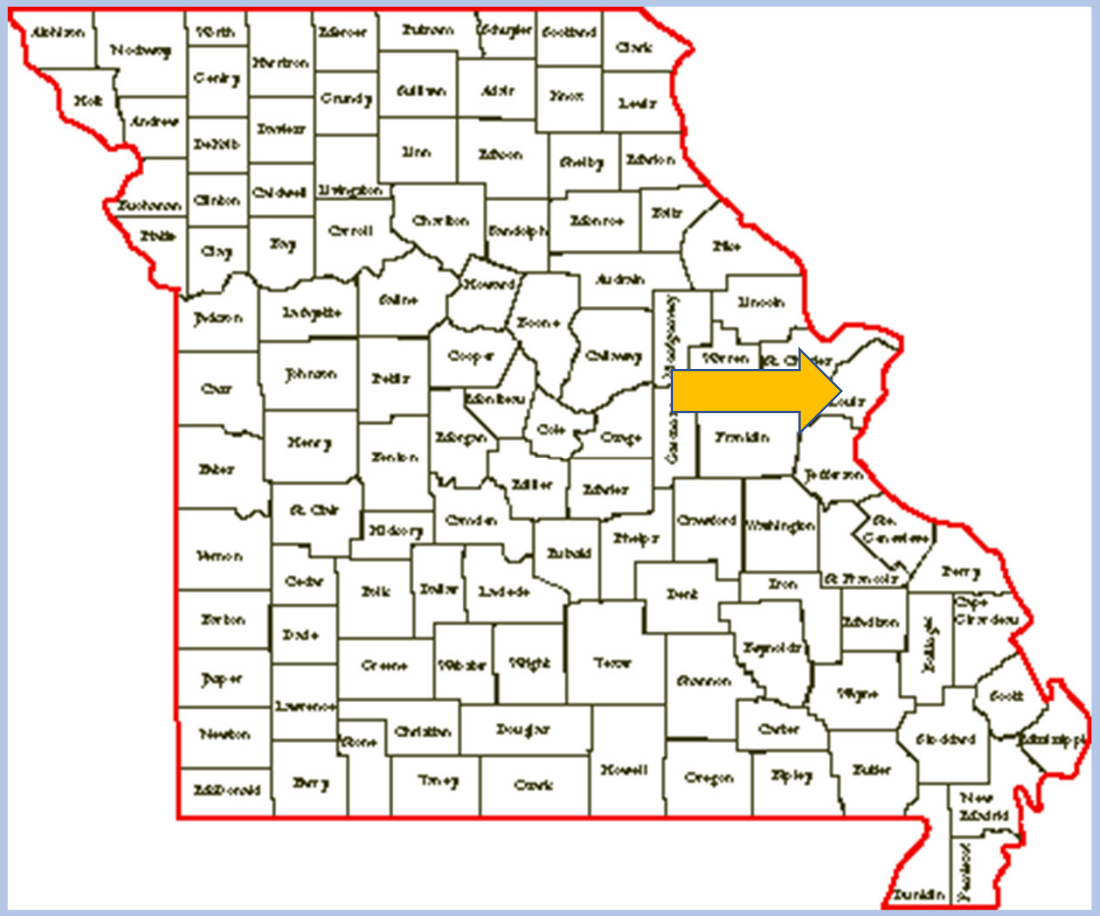
3 Farms
3 Areas in MO
3 Growing Methods

- **Happy Hollow Farm**
  - Jamestown, MO (Central, creek bottom valley)
  - 10’ x 100’ Caterpillar tunnel
  - Electric heat matts & straw mulch



3 Farms
3 Areas in MO
3 Growing Methods

- **Urban Buds**
  - St. Louis, MO (urban)
  - 20’ x 60’ Hoop house
  - Forced air heat from Natural Gas
  - Lights to lengthen day light period



3 Farms
3 Areas in MO
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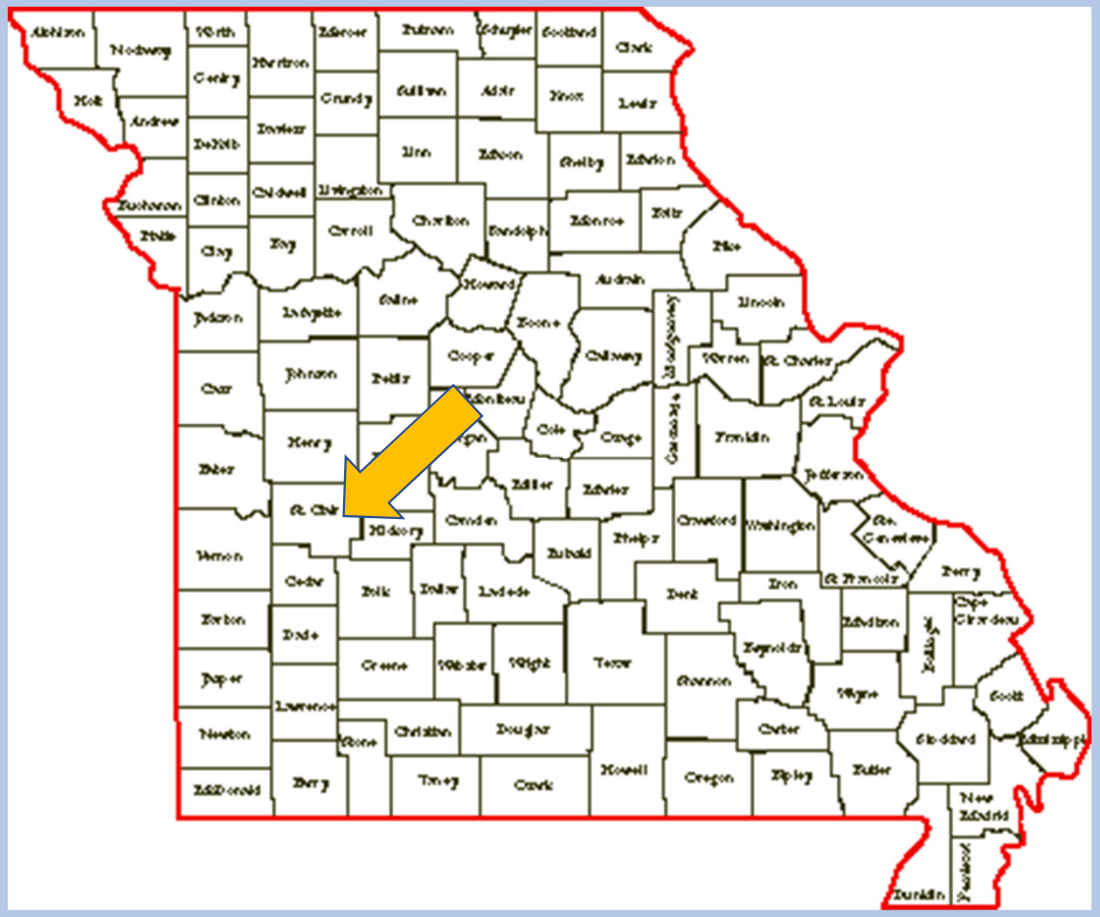
- **Wild Goose Gardens**
  - Osceola, MO (Southwest, hilltop growing)
  - 30’ x 96’ high tunnel
  - Forced air outdoor wood stove
  - Lights to lengthen day light period



Objectives

- Extend the growing season
- Trial different growing structures & heat sources
- Maintain wholesale customers year round
- Presentation of data at area conferences & workshops
- Host 3 on farm tours at each participating farm

Winter Flower Production Varieties

- Snapdragons
- Anemones
- Ranunculous
- Dahlias
- Aster/Lisianthus

Winter Flower Production Methods

- Interrupted night time duration, 1 hour of light, 60-75 watt LED's
- Temperatures held at 50 degrees
- Transplanting date for all varieties early/mid August

2017 Winter Harvest Records

	Urban Buds	Wild Goose Gardens	Happy Hollow Farm
Ranunculus	130 = $3,250	45 bunches = $675	12 bunches = $180
Anemone	91 = $810	48 bunches = $624	22 bunches = $330
Snapdragons	45 = $607.50	120 bunches = $1,440	35 bunches = $$420
Dahlias	750 stems = $3,750	74 bunches = $1,110	-
Lisianthus	-	-	-
Stock	-	24 Bunches = $288	-

Challenges

- Winter production is **HARD!**
  - ✓Time consuming
  - ✓Stressful
  - ✓Expensive
  - ✓Lots of variables
  - ✓No break

Benefits

- Maintain customer base year round
- Steady stream of income
- Opportunity to teach new interns & employees

Research Overview

- SCBG afforded us the opportunity to trial winter flower production
- Definite successes & failures
- SCBG needs more farmer trials!!!

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