



98th Annual National Plant Board Meeting

July 21 – July 25, 2024
Grand Rapids, Michigan

It's almost time! The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) would like to invite you to Grand Rapids, Michigan to attend the 98th Annual National Plant Board Meeting.

The meeting will commence on July 21, 2024, at 1:00PM with a Board of Directors Meeting and a 6:00PM Welcome Reception. As customary, we will have four action-packed days of presentations, field trips, and a banquet.

Meeting Registration

Register online for the 2024 National Plant Board Meeting at the following Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/98th-annual-national-plant-board-meeting-tickets-859673605897>. Registration is only available online.

PPQ attendees – please use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/98th-annual-national-plant-board-meeting-ppq-only-tickets-859664939977>

- **Early registration is \$600.00** for the entire week if you register by **July 12, 2024**.
- Single day registration is available for Sunday/Monday only, July 21 & 22, for \$200.00, Tuesday only, July 23, for \$250.00, Wednesday only, July 24, for \$250.00, and Thursday only, July 25 (half-day meeting), for \$100.00. Single day registration also closes on **July 25, 2024**.
- **Full/Late registration is \$650.00** and begins on **July 13, 2024**.
- Guest registration is available for the guests of the attendees that will not be attending any portion of the meeting but joining the attendee for meals and/or field trip. The guest registration fee is \$350.00.

Accommodations / Room Rates

The 98th Annual National Plant Board Meeting will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza, located at 187 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. Guests will be staying at the Amway Grand Plaza with **overflow** going to the connected Courtyard Marriott Hotel (not to be confused with the JW Marriott Grand Rapids), located at 11 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. You have two options for hotels, but we recommend the Amway Grand Plaza as that is where the meetings will be held.

Reservations can be made for the Amway Grand Plaza by calling 800-253-3590 or the Courtyard Marriott Grand Rapids by calling 877-901-6632. Please be sure to only call either of these numbers to reserve your rooms as there is no group code. You can also reserve online for either hotel by clicking on this link <https://book.passkey.com/e/50712691> The group rate is \$117.00 plus service charge and taxes. This rate will be available three days prior to and three days after the meeting.

Hotel reservations must be made on or before **Friday, July 12, 2024**, in order to be eligible for the group rate. Check-in time is at 4:00 PM; early arrivals will be accommodated based on availability. Check-out time is 11:00 AM.

More information about the hotels can be found [here for the Amway Grand](#) and [here for the Courtyard Marriott](#). The Amway Grand has eight restaurant/bars/coffee shops, three manual bowling lanes, a speakeasy, and spa.

Hotel Parking

Overnight guests of the hotels for our group (National Plant Board) can park in the Amway Grand parking ramp and will receive 50% off of the current parking rates, your cost will be \$20.00/per night for self-parking and \$22.00/per night for valet parking. The rates will be in the reservation system for our group. Overnight parking has unlimited in and out privileges. Parking in the hotel ramp is not guaranteed so you may have to park in the adjacent parking ramp. For those staying in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel the parking ramp is on the lowest level of the hotel.

Transportation

The nearest airport is the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR). Transportation to and from the airport is the responsibility of the traveler.

Car rental and ground transportation information: [Ground \(grr.org\)](http://Ground.grr.org)

The Amway Grand Plaza and Courtyard Marriott are located 13.6 miles (approximately a 20-minute drive) from the airport.

Weather

Grand Rapids, Michigan in July has an average high temperature of 83 degrees and an average low of 63 degrees. We will be outside for the majority of the field trip on Tuesday, so please bring appropriate clothing and sunblock. We will provide bottled water but encourage you to bring your own water bottles.

Field Trip

We will be heading out for our field trip on Tuesday, July 23rd from 11:00-6:00, which will consist of a visit to Walters Gardens to learn about their large-scale growing operations, grading, and quarantine compliance procedures for shipping perennials across the nation and the world. For more information about Walters Gardens, go to [Walters Gardens, Inc.](#) We will have lunch in their picnic area, weather permitting.

After Walters Gardens, we will head to Lake Michigan and visit Saugatuck. While there you have a few choices. You can take an hour-long boat tour on the Star of Saugatuck on the scenic water of the Kalamazoo River and Lake Michigan, where you will take in and learn about one of the Great Lakes of Michigan. Or you can take a 40-minute dune ride to learn about the local dune vegetation and wildlife. Lastly, you can explore beautiful Saugatuck on your own. For more information on Saugatuck, go to [EXPLORE | Saugatuck/Douglas, MI](#). Please note there is limited seating for the boat and dune rides, so make your choice as soon as possible on your Eventbrite registration.

Door Prizes

We are planning on having multiple door prize giveaways during the meeting. Please consider bringing a door prize that shows off your state or your agency to share with the group. Many of our attendees will be flying to and from our venue, so please keep travel restrictions on liquids and gels in mind. The form for the door prizes is attached. We ask that you include your name, agency, state, and item to expedite the giveaway process for the meeting facilitators. Email the completed form to martint9@michigan.gov.

Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids is an exciting city! Known as Beer City USA, Grand Rapids boasts more than 40 craft breweries, [several within walking distance from the Amway Grand](#). Learn more about things to do in [Grand Rapids here](#). The city also offers a [free DASH shuttle](#) operating to midnight

during the week. We encourage you to take in the sights of the Grand River running through this walkable downtown and enjoy your stay in Michigan!

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact Molly Mott – mottm@michigan.gov or Tina Campbell – campbellt8@michigan.gov.



MICHIGAN



GRAND RIVER

Grand Gallery

DEVOS PLACE

AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTEL

Entrance

Entrance

MONROE

PEARL

JW MARRIOTT GRAND RAPIDS

AMWAY PARKING RAMP

PNC

SKYWALK

CAMPAU SQUARE PLAZA

CAMPAU PARKING RAMP

RIVERFRONT PLAZA

PLAZA TOWERS

COURTYARD MARRIOTT HOTEL

MONROE

FULTON

PARKING

GRAND RIVER

OTTAWA

VAN ANDEL ARENA

ARENA

STATION

PARKING

WESTON

MARKET



Door Prize Form

Name:

Agency:

State:

How would you like send your donation?

*By mail to:

MDARD-PPPM
c/o Tammy Martin
PO Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

***Please mail by June 24, 2024**

Email (e-Gift Card) to Tammy Martin – martint9@michigan.gov

I will bring the door prize with me.

Door Prize Item(s):