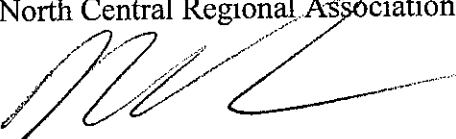


**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

May 29, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Support for a multi-state committee on water management for ornamental crops

**TO:** Arlen Leholm  
Executive Director, North Central Regional Association

**FROM:** Douglas D. Buhler   
Associate Director

Irrigation is essential for productive and profitable ornamental plant production. Drought and water conservation are not new issues to the western states, but state water policies are different in the east, and drive regional and local approaches to management. As the competition for water increases and drought continues in the eastern US, water management is becoming critical to the industry. Without work on improving water management and quality for ornamental crop production, the future of this economically important industry will be severely threatened.

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station supports the formation of a multi-state committee on water management for ornamental crops. We see this as an important activity and are confident that there is a critical mass of scientists to make the committee a success.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Best wishes.

cc: Steve Pueppke  
Chris Hamilton

**MICHIGAN**  
**AGRICULTURAL**  
**EXPERIMENT STATION**

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**Michigan Agricultural  
Experiment Station**

Michigan State University  
109 Agriculture Hall  
East Lansing, MI  
48824-1039  
517/355-0123  
FAX: 517/353-5406  
Web: [www.maes.msu.edu](http://www.maes.msu.edu)