

Floriculture Research Alliance 2025 Annual Meeting
Root Alliance 2025 Annual Meeting

Burnaby (near Vancouver), British Columbia, Canada
October 13-16, 2025

[Register for the meeting\(s\) here](#). Registration ends Friday, October 3rd
Registration or refunds will not be possible after October 3rd.

Hotel reservations and meeting location:

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

Please only make room reservations using [this link](#). The discounted room rate is \$269 Canadian dollars (around US\$200) per night plus 16% in taxes. No deposit is required.

Registration:

You can register online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/floriculture-2025-annual-meetings>.
The registration fees are in US dollars. Register for one, two, or all three events.

Best New Ideas & Floriculture Research Alliance meeting (Oct. 13-14)	\$180
Floriculture industry tour (Oct. 15)	\$115
Root Alliance meeting (Oct. 16)	\$180

Please plan and register early. Most non-Canadian citizens need a passport for entry. A visa may also be required for some foreign nationals: <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Agenda

Updated October 1, 2025

Best New Ideas, Monday, October 13 (Tiffany Ballroom)

Sponsored by Philips LED Lighting

4:30 – 6:00 pm Participating companies are invited and encouraged to present their best new idea (2-3 minutes each).

Presentations coordinated by Royal Heins. Hors d'oeuvres provided. Please E-mail your PowerPoint presentation to Royal Heins, heins@msu.edu.

PHILIPS

Dinner on your own.

Floriculture Research Alliance meeting, Tuesday, October 14 (Tiffany Ballroom)

7:15 – 8:30 am Breakfast buffet

8:40 – 9:00 am Welcome and introductions, Erik Runkle and Roberto Lopez, Michigan State University

9:00 – 9:45 am The gas environment inside URC boxes: Implications for box design. Jim Faust, Clemson University

- 9:45 – 10:30 am Creating resilient ornamentals through molecular genetics –and– production techniques that give you the biggest bang for your buck, John Erwin, University of Maryland
- 10:30 – 11:00 am Break and Poster Session 1
- Use of hydration products to reduce wilting of cuttings after sticking (Gabriela Calidonio, Clemson University)
 - Leaf distortion in poinsettias induced by high temperatures (Ana Maria Borda, Clemson University)
 - Energy and economics of vertical indoor propagation (Jacob Muller, University of Florida)
 - Greenhouse Training Online: new courses and programs for 2025-26 (Nelda Hernández, University of Florida)
- 11:00 – 11:50 am MSU Research Update, Roberto Lopez and Erik Runkle, Michigan State University
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch buffet
Sponsored by Smithers Oasis
- 1:00 – 1:30 pm Precision propagation and grower training. Paul Fisher, University of Florida
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm Using generative AI workshop. Paul Fisher, University of Florida. Participants will interact with examples of generative AI applications being developed, best-practices tips, and feedback/input on FRA group utilization.
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm Break and Poster Session 2
- Postharvest performance of coniferous evergreen species in a retail environment (Ana Maria Borda, Clemson University)
 - Identifying the ethylene sensitivity of unrooted cuttings (Katie Glenn, Clemson University)
 - Fine tune your mist irrigation (Carly Anderson, University of Florida)
 - Influence of far-red radiation on the development of leaf purpling in petunia (Charlie Smith, Michigan State University)
 - Ultraviolet B Radiation Reduces Internode Elongation and Quality of Potted Basil ‘Dolce Fresca’ and ‘Prospera’ (Roberto Lopez, Michigan State University)
- 3:00 – 3:20 pm Sponsor presentations: Philips, Smithers Oasis, Fine Americas, Sollum Technologies
- 3:20 – 4:05 pm Economic outlook & marketing research update. Charlie Hall, Texas A&M University
- 4:05 – 4:30 pm Future meeting discussion



Dinner on your own.

Floriculture Industry Tour, Wednesday, October 15

Sponsored by Fine Americas



6:45 – 7:15 am Grab-and-go breakfast – pick up a breakfast box in the Tiffany Foyer and eat on the bus

7:20 am Board buses. Prompt departure at 7:30am

8:00 – 9:30 am [Burnaby Lake Greenhouse](#), 17250 80 Ave, Surrey, BC, V4N 6J6

10:15 – 11:15 am [Sumas Gro-Media](#), 42481 Industrial Way, Chilliwack, B.C., V2R 0P4

11:25 – 1:35 pm [Rainbow Greenhouse](#), 43756 South Sumas Rd, Chilliwack BC, V2R 4L6
Boxed lunch

2:40 – 3:40 pm [West Coast Gardens](#), 1420 172 St, Surrey BC, V3S 9M6

4:30 pm Return to hotel

5:30 – 6:45 pm Social hour in Baccarat room with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres
Sponsored by Sollum Technologies



Dinner on your own.

Root Alliance Meeting, Thursday, October 16 (Tiffany Ballroom)

7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast buffet

8:20 – 8:40 am Welcome remarks and introductions

8:40 – 9:20 am UGA update on solution oxygenation and fertilizer management, Rhuanito Ferrarezi, University of Georgia

9:20 – 10:00 am UofA update on rootzone management in long-term container crops, Ryan Dickson, University of Arkansas

10:00 – 10:30 am Break

10:30 – 11:10 am Purdue research update, Celina Gomez, Purdue University

11:10-11:55 am Graduate student presentations (15-min each with Q&A)
• MS student Destany Westlake (UF): Heavy metals remediation strategies

- PhD student Dharti Thakulla (UF): Cold plasma and ozone: Pythium, biofilm, and beneficials
- Student to be announced

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch buffet

1:00 – 1:30 pm Future meeting site selection; Group identity discussion; Strategy to bring new allied companies

1:30 – 1:50 pm UConn research update on waterborne issues, Rosa Raudales, University of Connecticut

1:50 – 2:35 pm Graduate student presentations (15-min each with Q&A)

- PhD student Nelda Hernandez (UF): Training needs for growers, Professional Irrigator
- MS student Matt Housley (UGA): Use of vertical farms to grow plants for biopharmaceutical extraction
- PhD student Stephanie Cruz (UofA): Power BI for data-driven rootzone decisions

2:35 – 3:00 pm Break and Poster Session 2

3:00 – 3:40 pm UF Root zone research update, Paul Fisher, University of Florida

3:40 – 4:00 pm Closing

Dinner on your own.