



## Protecting Your Crop and Planning for Tomorrow

# Friday, February 27, 2026

**Registration and breakfast with the vendors begins at 8:00 a.m.**

# ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**GRAND TOTAL \$**

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Make checks payable to Michigan Christmas Tree Association  
Questions Contact: Amy at [info@mcta.org](mailto:info@mcta.org) | Visit [mcta.org](http://mcta.org) for information



# 2026 Winter Schedule

## Protecting Your Crop and Planning for Tomorrow

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-9:00   | <b>Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 11:00-11:45 | <b>Dr. Debalina Saha, MSU</b><br><i><b>Fighting with your toughest weeds in Christmas Tree production? Here is the solution!</b></i><br><i>Solutions to control some of the toughest weeds such as Horsetail, Maretail, yellow nutsedge, Milkweed, and Horsenettle will be discussed in this presentation. In addition to that, growers can gain information on how to manage weeds by non-chemical control options.</i> |
| 9:00-9:45   | <b>Pratima Devkota, MSU</b><br><i><b>Root Rot Diseases of Christmas Trees: Phytophthora and Armillaria Under the Spotlight</b></i><br><i>This presentation will focus on how Armillaria and Phytophthora root rot diseases affect Christmas tree farms and will share plans for upcoming research work to better understand root diseases and guide future management.</i>                                                                                                                                   |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9:00-9:45   | <b>Dr. Bert Cregg, MSU</b><br><i><b>Dealing with abiotic injuries in Christmas tree production: When the pest isn't a pest...</b></i><br><i>Description: Tree injury or death caused by environmental stresses, such as drought, cold, heat, or flooding, are among the most common issues facing Christmas tree producers. Dr. Bert Cregg (MSU) will discuss common abiotic issues in conifers and opportunities to mitigate their damage.</i>                                                              | 11:00-11:45 | <b>Florencia Colella, MSU</b><br><i><b>Farm Business Management 101</b></i><br><i>This session will go over things to know to run your farm as a business: recordkeeping, taxes, planning, and budgeting. Special things to consider for tree farms vs other kinds of farms or businesses.</i>                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00-10:45 | <b>Dr. Younsuk Dong, MSU</b><br><i><b>Research updates from 2025 Christmas tree irrigation experiments</b></i><br><i>This presentation will highlight key findings from the 2025 irrigation research conducted in Michigan Christmas tree production systems. We will discuss how different irrigation scheduling methods influence tree growth.</i>                                                                                                                                                         | 11:50-12:15 | <b>White House Christmas Tree, Rex Korson, Korson's Tree Farms</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:00-10:45 | <b>Kate Dodde, Dutchman Tree Farms</b><br><i><b>Modern Marketing for Real Trees: AI, Video, and the Power of Your Story</b></i><br><i>Learn how to make your farm's story stand out using free and simple tools, from the Real Christmas Tree Board's ready-to-use marketing materials to easy AI, and video editing techniques that help you create engaging, authentic content. This session is designed for growers and retailers looking to reach today's customers where they are, on their phones.</i> | 12:15-1:15  | <b>Lunch with Exhibitors</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1:15-2:00   | <b>Dr. Zach Rutledge, MSU</b><br><i><b>Farm Labor Outlook</b></i><br><i>This presentation will provide an overview of US and Michigan farm labor trends and recent policy changes/proposals.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1:15-2:00   | <b>Bill Lindberg, MSU Extension</b><br><i><b>Invasive insect update: adelgid and scale oh my!</b></i><br><i>Several significant invasive insect pests have recently been found in Michigan. This session will detail their current status, life cycle, and potential impact on Christmas trees for balsam woolly adelgid, elongated hemlock scale, and cryptomeria scale.</i>                                            |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2:15-3:00   | <b>End of the Season Review and A Look to the Future – Tony Stefani, Hillside Christmas Tree Farm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3:00-3:30   | <b>Marsha Gray, Real Christmas Tree Board Update</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3:30-3:50   | <b>MCTA Annual Meeting/Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3:50-4:15   | <b>Surveys and Vendor Happy Hour</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 4:15-5:00   | <b>Choose and Cut and Wholesale Meetings</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**KEY: Black General Session, Blue Auxiliary Room**

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