

Pre-Registration deadline extended to January 11, 2017 for the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference.

Wednesday Night Bonus: Video Tour of a Native Bee Life Cycle

If you're coming to the conference and plan to be in St. Cloud on Wednesday evening, January 18, 2017, join Karl Foord for a fascinating look at native pollinators. The session will be held at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Pollinators provide vital services to growers of horticultural crops. These services are provided by both managed honeybee hives and native bees. The contributions made by native bees (Minnesota has some 420 species) are often overlooked. Given the challenges faced by commercial bee keepers, future pollination strategies can include the role of native bees. To incorporate native bees into one's pollination strategies requires an understanding of their life cycle, as well as their forage and nesting requirements. Because native pollinators are often small and fast flyers, it can be difficult to observe their behavior. This presentation through the use of high speed video captures these behaviors and enables the viewer to see that which is not possible with the naked eye. After seeing this video presentation, you will have a better understanding of native bee pollinators and be in a better position to consider how your practices might incorporate the pollination services they provide.

These videos will be AMAZING. Following Karl's presentation there will be an informal general discussion for those who wish to participate.

Bernie Zandstra Added to 2017 Conference Program

Dr. Bernard Zandstra from Michigan State University will be joining us for the 2017 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference. Dr. Zandstra does research on weed control in fruit, ornamental, and vegetable crops. His current projects include weed control in seedling Christmas trees, reduced rates of herbicides in vegetable crops, and new herbicides for residual control in fruit crops. Dr. Zandstra authors the Michigan Weed Control Guide for Vegetable Crops bulletin and the weed control section of the Michigan Fruit Management Guide.

Tap into his expertise as he discusses weed control in cole crops and vine crops. He will also discuss how to control tough weeds in strawberries. The updated program has been posted to the MFVGA website at www.mfvga.org