

# Washtenaw County MSU Extension Field Crops Newsletter

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## 2007 Field Crop and Vegetable Bulletins Available

The newly revised 2007 Michigan State University Extension bulletins for field crop and vegetable farmers are now available for purchase at the Washtenaw County Extension office. For farm use there is no sales tax on the price of these bulletins.

For commercial vegetable farmers, there are two bulletins with major revisions. Previous editions should be destroyed. Available include:

- 2007 Insect, Disease and Nematode Control for Commercial Vegetables, bulletin E-312, is available for \$7.
- 2007 Weed Control Guide for Vegetable Crops, E-433, costs \$3.25.

For field crop farmers, there are two bulletins with major revisions. Previous editions should be destroyed. These include:

- 2007 Insect, Nematode and Disease Control in Michigan Field Crops, bulletin E-1582, is available for \$4.
- 2007 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops, bulletin E-434, which costs \$8.50.



## 2007 MSU Ag Expo

Ag Expo, the annual agricultural show at Michigan State University (MSU), will have some new and different features in 2007. The web site, [www.agexpo.msu.edu](http://www.agexpo.msu.edu), provides information for all those interested in Ag Expo. The site features visitor information with maps and directions, exhibitor information and show schedules. Show schedules will be updated frequently, with maps of show sites available.

Ag Expo, July 17-19, features commercial farm equipment from throughout the Midwest and several Canadian provinces on the 40-acre main exhibition site and the 40-acre field demonstration area.

The event runs from 9 am to 5 pm July 17, 9 am to 5 pm on July 18, and 9am to 3pm on July 19. Admission to the grounds and parking at Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road are free.

Included this year will be hundreds of exhibits, educational exhibits, skid steer ride and drive, zero-turn mower demonstrations, utility vehicle ride and drive, livestock handling demonstrations, antique and garden tractor pull on Wednesday, toy tractor show, FFA tractor driving contest on Tuesday, side-by-side comparisons of feed processing and mixing equipment and telehandler demonstrations.

For more information about Ag Expo, call 1-800-366-7055 or visit [www.agexpo.msu.edu](http://www.agexpo.msu.edu).

## 2007 MSU Weed Tours

Mark your calendars - It is that time of the year again! The 2007 Weed Tour will be held on the Michigan State University campus on Wednesday, June 27 at the MSU Agronomy Farm (Beaumont Road and Mt. Hope Road). Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the field tour kicking off at 9:30 am. The tour will provide ample opportunity to look at research plots and participate in some short field presentations (be sure to bring a hat and sun screen!). Participants can compare their favorite corn and soybean herbicide programs to other commercial programs and evaluate how new transgenic crops (CRW-corn) interact with weed management strategies. The morning tour ends with lunch. The afternoon tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the MSU Horticulture Farm (College Road, south of Jolly Road) and will include weed control research in horticultural crops. Pre-registration for the tour is \$25 per person which includes a tour booklet and a lunch ticket (on-site registration is \$30). A flier with a map and registration form is available at the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office. For an electronic registration form or additional information visit the MSU web site at [www.msuweeds.com](http://www.msuweeds.com), or call 517-355-0271 ext. 1112, or email: <misiak@msu.edu>. We hope to see you there!

**Custom Machine Work Rates**

Many farmers in southeast Michigan hire some farm work to be done or else perform custom work for others. What is a fair amount to charge or to pay for such work? Michigan State University has Extension Bulletin E-2131, Revised October 2002 available free of charge, which outlines labor, tractor and machine rental rates as determined by a survey of farmers from around the state of Michigan.

Some spring custom rate numbers for the following items might be helpful for farmers as they settle up accounts for tillage work. All rates are per acre unless otherwise noted. These numbers are average prices for the state.

Rates in Washtenaw County may be higher or lower depending upon several factors. These can include; field size, ease of access, machine size and roads, trash, trees or brush hindering work, depth of field drainage tile or bedrock, payment arrangements or other factors.

Fuel prices have increased dramatically since this MSU survey was taken. Farmers need to consider their current fuel prices and adjust their custom rate charge according to their actual costs.

Moldboard plowing	\$15.00
Chisel plowing	\$12.50
Mulch tilling (disk-chisel)	\$13.15
V-ripping (14 inches deep)	\$15.75
Tandem disking	\$10.15
Soil finisher	\$11.25
Field cultivator	\$ 8.40
No-till corn planting	\$17.70
Drilled, minimum till soybeans	\$14.40
Mowing and conditioning hay	\$10.25
Tractor rental 100-149hp	\$28.60 per hour
4 wheel drive tractor over 175 hp	\$47.90 per hour
Custom spreading lime without GPS	\$11.00
Pull type pesticide spraying	\$ 6.15

The Washtenaw County Extension office has copies of E-2131 available free of charge. For a copy, please call the office at 734-997-1678.

**Save Money with a Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Soil Test**

Farmers who raise field corn, sugar beets, tomatoes or sweet corn should take a soil test prior to side dressing any nitrogen to see how much nitrogen remains in the soil. Doing this prior to any sidedressing will help to determine how much nitrogen needs to be applied to achieve the desired yield goal. Farmers can also save money by not over-estimating their nitrogen fertilizer needs. An additional benefit is not contaminating the groundwater with nitrates, which can show up in well water used for drinking.

Michigan State University's Plant and Nutrient Testing laboratory will process this soil test and fax the results back within 48 hours for a cost of \$9 per sample (plus \$3 shipping & handling if mailed). Interested farmers should take a soil sample 12 inches deep and take up to twenty probes for each field. That soil needs to be air-dried before going to the laboratory.

The Washtenaw County Extension Office has the necessary form that needs to be completed which must accompany the sample. Payment must also go with each sample, payable to Washtenaw County MSU Extension.

For sampling forms and containers, contact the Washtenaw County Extension Office at 734-997-1678.

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