



The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program is an innovative proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks. The program was developed by a coalition of farmers, commodity groups, academia, state and federal agencies and conservation and environmental groups. While the MDA is the verifying agency, MAEAP is not a government or regulatory program, but a partnership effort.

The Michigan Water Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort between the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program is funded by fees assessed on the sale of pesticides and nitrogen fertilizers. More than \$3 million is distributed annually to local stewardship teams to set local water protection priorities based on local needs.



RETURN THIS FORM TO:
MAEAP

Michigan Department of Agriculture
PO Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
www.maeap.org

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Environmental Assurance for Ornamental Nurseries

Steps toward improved environmental management and MAEAP Verification



www.maeap.org

**Promoting Stewardship,
Protecting the Environment**



Nursery crop producers can affirm their commitment to the environment through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). MAEAP is confidential, voluntary and non-regulatory, allowing growers to chart a path toward environmental assurance for their farming systems. Nursery producers can environmentally assure both their Farmstead System (farm headquarters) and Cropping System (production fields).

Grower Benefits

- MAEAP helps growers take care of the land for future generations.
- MAEAP assures the community that growers have used effective tools for assessing and correcting environmental risks on their farming operations, and that growers are doing what they can to farm with environmentally safe practices
- MAEAP helps growers learn how to get maximum results from their farm while, at the same time, benefiting the environment.
- MAEAP verifies that farming practices are in conformance with Michigan's Right to Farm GAAMPs, and teaches growers how to comply with state and federal environmental laws.

MAEAP Verification Phases

Three phases are required for MAEAP verification.

Phase 1: Education involves grower attendance at a MAEAP educational session or approved alternative program, including online options. Held across the state, these sessions introduce growers to MAEAP and update them on new and emerging environmental regulations and opportunities. Growers are required to attend a minimum of one educational session every three years.

Phase 2: On-farm risk assessment focuses on evaluating environmental risks and devising farm-specific corrective and economically viable solutions. The grower works with a local water stewardship technician to conduct the proper risk assessment for their business. A technician can be contacted at a Conservation District or MSU Extension office.

Phase 3: Third-party verification is requested by the grower when he/she has implemented any needed changes. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) representative verifies that Phase 1 and 2 requirements are met, identified risks are appropriately addressed, and applicable state Right-to-Farm guidelines are being followed. MAEAP farms require MDA verification every three years to maintain good standing in the program.



MAEAP INFORMATION REQUEST FORM *Ornamental Nursery*

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Quarterly newsletter will be emailed.

Return this form to:
MAEAP - MDA
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

Start now: Complete and mail the information request form, or contact your local Conservation District, Water Stewardship Technician or MSU Extension office.

For more information visit www.maeap.org

