TOUR DE MICHIGAN

A wrap-up of the 2012 Michigan Garden Tours

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FOR MORE: Michigan Plant Tour, plantour.net, msa.edu

1. FOUR STAR GREENHOUSE
2. MICHIGAN STATE HORTICULTURE GARDENS
3. WALTERS GARDENS
4. SPRING MEADOW NURSERY
5. FELL GREENHOUSES
6. MAST YOUNG PLANTS
7. C. BAKES AND SONS
In August, the GIE Media crew packed its bags and loaded up a features-loaded minivan at 6 a.m. and headed west from Cleveland for a two-day road trip across the state of Michigan for the 2012 Michigan Gardens Tour.

The ninth annual tour took us to seven different stops in the two-day period: Four Star Greenhouse, Michigan State Horticulture Gardens, Walters Gardens, Spring Meadow Nurseries, Full Greenhouses, Marc Young Plants and C. Raker and Sons.

Several sites featured beautiful display gardens, while others featured trial gardens for their own products as well as customer products and All-America Selections Trials. Each displayed the newest varieties of annuals, perennials, shrubs and vegetables. The major benefit of the tour is the opportunity to see these new species in the habitat they’ll end up in – how do they hold up when they’re surrounded by other plants and subjected to the elements? The overarching theme we saw over and again was beautiful varieties that withstood the extreme heat and drought of this Midwest summer season.

Here are some "postcards" from the tour that we thought you might enjoy, just in case you couldn’t make it yourself.
EVENTS

3 Walters Gardens
ZEELAND, MICH.

Walters Gardens had several strong performers. We also toured their greenhouse facilities, where they’ve implemented processes to increase productivity.

4 Spring Meadow Nursery
GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

Spring Meadow Nursery will have several new varieties available at retail next year, which were released to growers this year.

5 Pell Greenhouses
HUDSONVILLE, MICH.

Pell Greenhouses has an extensive mum nursery in addition to its greenhouse space. Its display gardens feature its own varieties as well as those from GreenFuse Botanicals.
**EVENTS**

6. **Most Young Plants**
   GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Most Young Plants had an extensive trial garden that mixed outdoor living ideas with its trials.

7. **C. Raker and Sons**
   LITCHFIELD, MICH.

Trial gardens at C. Raker and Sons feature extensive All America Selections trials.