

## **MSU Plant Science Research Greenhouse Irrigation Policy**

### **Effective May 9, 2024**

#### **Background:**

The Plant Science Research Greenhouses (PSRG) has been installing irrigation systems at the request of greenhouse users and at no cost (for parts or labor) to them. However, users have realized that irrigation systems quite often do not keep plants properly watered because of differences in species, plant size, container size, and other variables that influence water demand. As a result, either irrigation systems are abandoned or they lead to poor crop culture (e.g., too much water for small plants and/or not enough water for large plants).

#### **Policy:**

The purpose of this policy is to inform the implementation of user-requested irrigation systems that are installed by PSRG staff. Thus, this policy only applies to irrigation systems built by PSRG staff. Users may build their own systems if the PSRG Director is informed ahead of time.

Under the new policy, the greenhouse user will pay the cost to install a new irrigation system, including parts and labor (at \$30 per hour). If the user wishes to fertilize through the irrigation system, the user will need to purchase and maintain a fertilizer injector; the injector will always remain the property of the user. PSRG staff can provide assistance with selecting an injector and will install it.

If the user is relocated to a different greenhouse per the request of the PSRG, then PSRG will absorb the costs to install an irrigation system in the new house. If the user requests to move to a different greenhouse, then the user will pay the cost to install an irrigation system in the new house.

PSRG will maintain the PSRG-installed irrigation system, at no cost to the user, for a period of 5 years, excluding instances of misuse or negligence on the part of the user. Every 5 years, the condition of the irrigation system will be evaluated. If the system is in good condition, it can remain in use and PSRG will remain responsible for maintenance. If the system is in poor condition, the cost to replace or repair the system will be paid by the user.