

MSU Plant Science Research Greenhouse Specialized Equipment Policy

Effective January 1, 2026

The Plant Science Research Greenhouses (PSRG) recognizes that some research requires the installation of specialized equipment in greenhouse zones. This policy outlines who is responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining such equipment, providing consistency and transparency among projects and greenhouse users.

Under this policy, specialized equipment enhances the research capacity and is installed for long-term periods in the greenhouse zone(s); it also is generally accepted or practical for greenhouse applications. Examples are systems to increase or decrease humidity or extremely high-intensity lighting. The separate policy for installation of irrigation systems, which generally includes similar equipment, such as benchtop mist chambers, will still apply.

Greenhouse users are strongly encouraged to contact the PSRG director as early as possible when specialized equipment is desired, and before any requests for funding are submitted or such equipment is purchased. This will help ensure the equipment is appropriate for the greenhouses and that mutual expectations are discussed in advance.

The greenhouse user(s) will pay the cost to purchase all materials. If PSRG staff have the knowledge, skills, and ability to install the system, they will do so at no cost to the user(s). The installation will be completed as PSRG staff are available, as other work may need to be prioritized. If PSRG staff cannot install the system, or if the user(s) wants the equipment to be installed more quickly than PSRG staff can, they will pay the cost for installation by either MSU Infrastructure, Planning, and Facilities or an approved outside contractor.

In general, maintenance will be completed by PSRG staff as time and expertise allows. If it cannot be completed by PSRG staff, the user(s) will pay the cost for maintenance by either MSU Infrastructure, Planning, and Facilities or an approved outside contractor. The PSRG will pay for nominal expenses associated with routine maintenance, but greenhouse user(s) will need to pay for more expensive replacement parts. The PSRG staff will assume no liability for, or guarantee of, equipment performance. The user(s) will assume responsibility for equipment replacement upon its complete failure or when it reaches the end of its useful life.

The installation of specialized equipment does not give the user(s) any ownership of, or control over, use of the greenhouse zone; space assignments will still be made by the PSRG director. However, as is the case with all space assignments, care will be taken to match the research needs with the research capacity of the greenhouse zones.