

Michigan State University
Plant Science Research Greenhouse Facility
Standard Operating Procedures for Disposal of Plants, Pots, and Potting Media
Effective June 2022

1. Proper disposal of plants, pots, and potting media is the responsibility of the greenhouse user. Do not put these materials in PSRG-provided trash cans and leave it for greenhouse staff to dispose of.

2. Note that there are special procedures for transgenic plants (see below).

3. To prevent the spread of pests through the facility when discarding plants, wheeled, lidded trash cans are located near each potting station; these trash cans **MUST** be used when discarding plants. It is no longer permissible to use carts, wheelbarrows, etc.

These trash cans should be **taken to the greenhouse** and filled with plants and potting media in the greenhouse. **DO NOT OVERFILL**, as you will need to be able to securely place the lid on the trash can and wheel the trash can up the ramp to the organic waste dumpster.

When you are finished, return the trash cans to their original place.

4. Non-transgenic plants and potting media should be disposed of directly into the steamer bin using the ramp (see location on the map below). Material in this bin is steamed for a minimum of 12 hours. If the bin is covered for steaming, material may be dumped on the ground in the designated area to the west of the dumpster. No plastic, metal, etc. should be disposed of in the compost pile; **ONLY** plants and potting media.

5. Plastic pots and trays, even those not provided by PSRG, should be put into the plastics recycling area (see location on the map below). Empty pots may be moved through the facility on carts or in wheelbarrows. Shake/tap the majority of the potting media from the container and neatly stack in the appropriate bin. **Ensure that you check the number on the pot/tray and put it in the correct bin!**

6. All trash (pot tags, etc.) should be disposed of into one of the two trash dumpsters. Do not dispose of plants, potting media, or pots in these dumpsters.

7. If you are unsure if your plants should go into the compost pile/steamer bin, please consult with Chrislyn Particka (chrislyn@msu.edu).

Michigan State University
Plant Science Research Greenhouse Facility
Standard Operating Procedures for Disposal of Transgenic Plants
Effective June 2022

1. Proper disposal of transgenic plants is the responsibility of the greenhouse user. Proper disposal of pots is the also the responsibility of the greenhouse user. Do not put these materials in PSRG-provided trash cans and leave it for greenhouse staff to dispose of.

2. Users may autoclave transgenic plant material, but greenhouse staff cannot help users locate autoclave space. The MSU Growth Chamber Facility autoclave should not be used for PSRG-grown transgenic plants as it is run and maintained by Growth Chamber Facility staff.

3. The steamer bin that is used to dispose of plant material and potting media was tested by greenhouse staff and EHS and it was found to be an acceptable method to dispose of transgenic plant material. *However*, because the steamer bin is not kept securely covered, transgenic plants may not be placed into this bin until it is ready to be covered and steamed.

4. For SMALL amounts of transgenic plants, (no more than 2 trash cans), wheeled, lidded trash cans are located near each potting station; these trash cans **MUST** be used when discarding plants. It is no longer permissible to use carts, wheelbarrows, etc.

These trash cans should be **taken to the greenhouse** and filled with plants and potting media in the greenhouse. **DO NOT OVERFILL**, as you will need to be able to securely place the lid on the trash can and wheel the trash can up the ramp to the organic waste dumpster.

The trash cans should be taken to the storage barn. The area for transgenic plants is on the north side (left as you walk in the barn) and is indicated with a sign.

5. For LARGE amounts of transgenic plants, contact a greenhouse staff member to arrange a time to dump material directly into the steam dumpster so that we can immediately cover and steam it when you are finished. Wheeled, lidded trash cans are located near each potting station; these trash cans **MUST** be used when discarding plants. It is no longer permissible to use carts, wheelbarrows, etc.

These trash cans should be taken to the greenhouse, and plants and potting media dumped into the trash can in the greenhouse. **DO NOT OVERFILL**, as you will need to be able to securely place the lid on the trash can and wheel the trash can up the ramp to the organic waste dumpster.

6. Plastic pots and trays, even those not provided by PSRG, should be put into the plastics recycling area (see location on the map below). Empty pots may be moved through the facility on carts or in wheelbarrows. Shake/tap the majority of the potting media from the container and neatly stack in the appropriate bin. **Ensure that you check the number on the pot/tray and put it in the correct bin!**

7. All trash (pot tags, etc.) should be disposed of into one of the two trash dumpsters. Do not dispose of plants, potting media, or pots in these dumpsters.

Disposal locations with the headhouse and barn labeled for reference points.

