

MSU  
Plant Science Research  
Greenhouse Facility  
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# Plant Science Research Greenhouse Facility Directory

Website: <https://rtsf.natsci.msu.edu/research-greenhouse-complex/>

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## **Greenhouse Faculty Oversight Committee**

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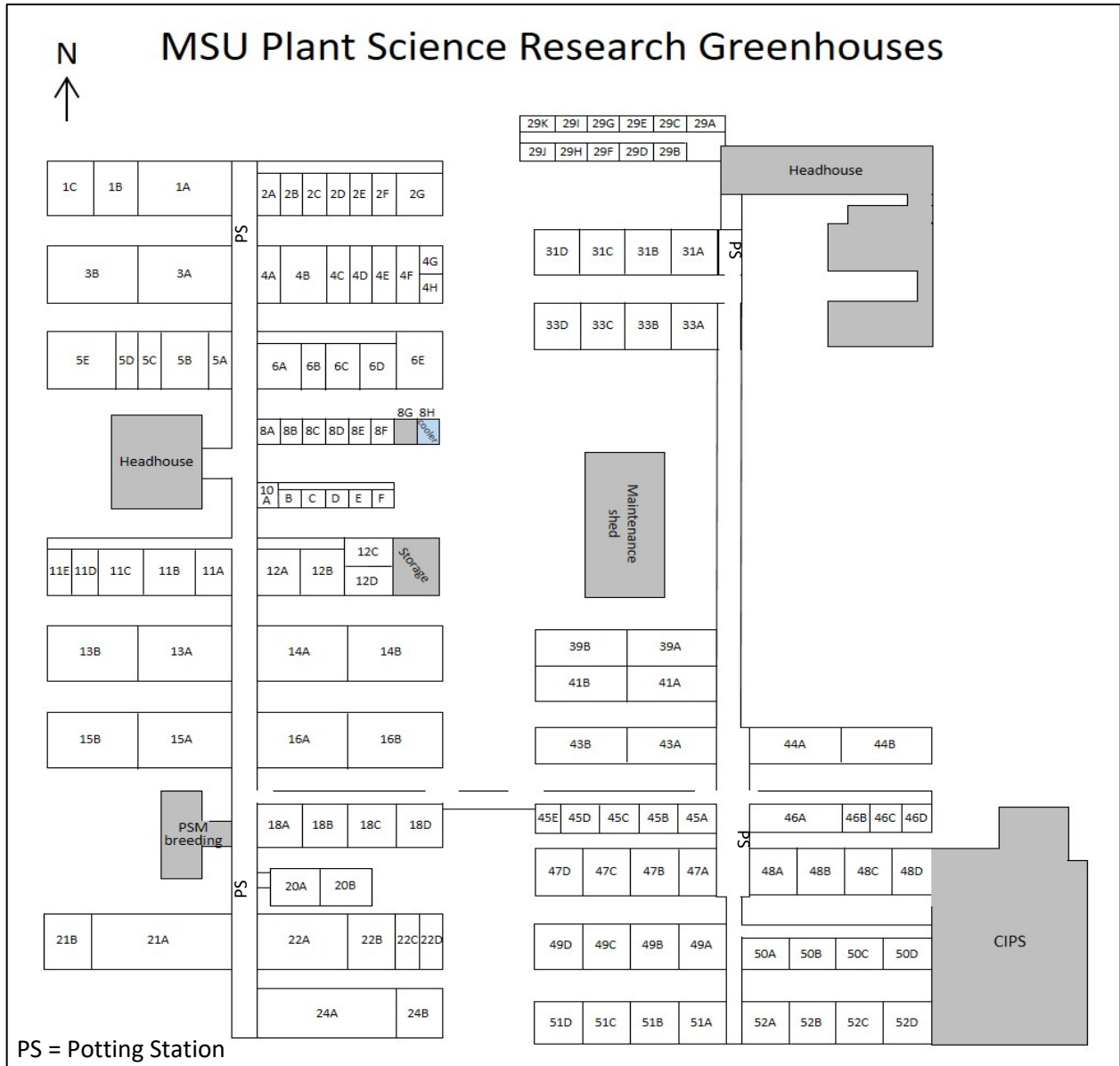
### **Dr. Michael Walters**

Department of Forestry

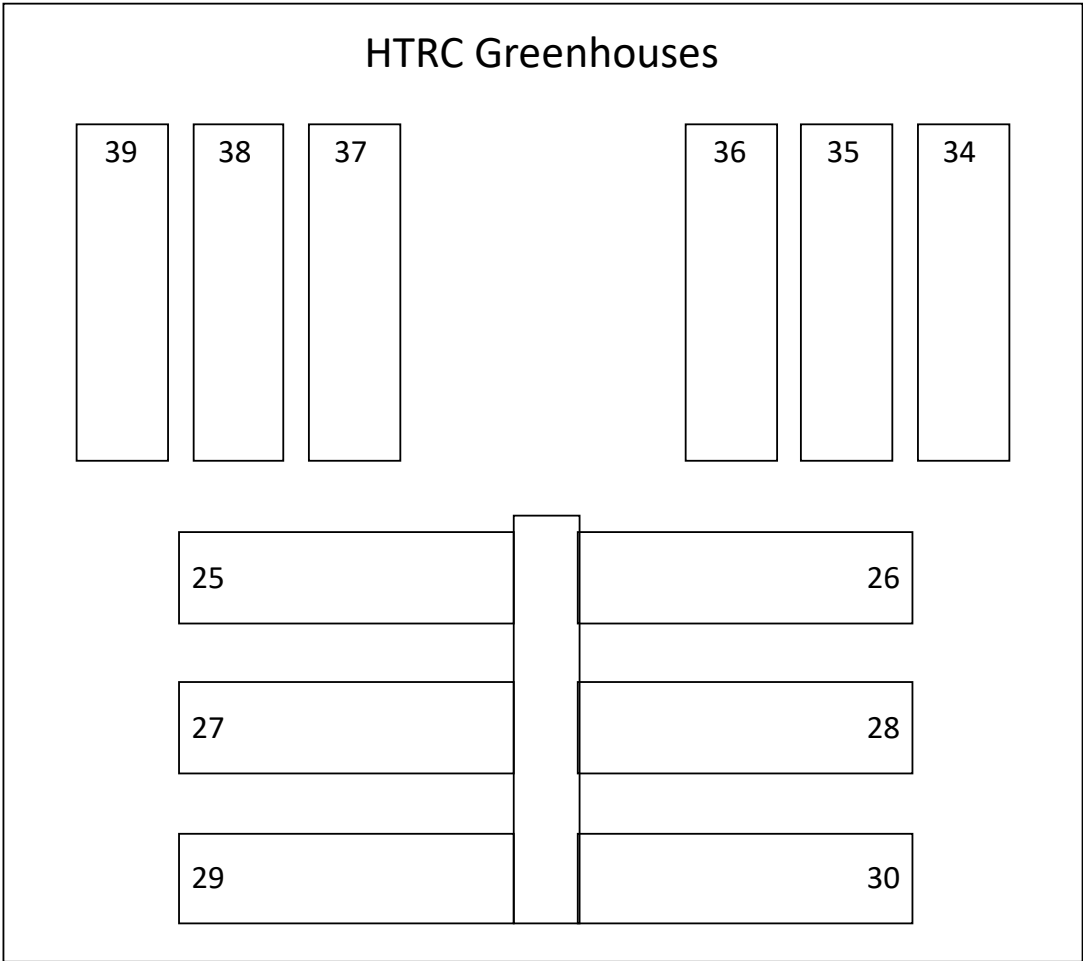
Email: [mwalters@msu.edu](mailto:mwalters@msu.edu)

# Facility Maps

## Main Campus



Horticulture Teaching and Research Center (HTRC)



## Space Allocation

Greenhouse space at the Plant Science Research Greenhouses (PSRG) or at HTRC is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis using the form available at [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofdLiSkutPDtGtsQKczDb\\_Q5UMlo0TlozTUwxMVdXQ0MzNzFaSkVJV01KMi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofdLiSkutPDtGtsQKczDb_Q5UMlo0TlozTUwxMVdXQ0MzNzFaSkVJV01KMi4u).

*You must use your MSU credentials to log in.*

Submission of this form will allow the Director to evaluate your needs and determine how best to provide space given the available resources. Submission of the form does not guarantee that you will receive space. No research may be conducted in the greenhouse without approval of the Director. All approved greenhouse users must review and follow greenhouse facility policies and procedures contained in this guide. During periods where demand for space is greater than supply, priority will be given to new faculty.

## Facility Access

Access to the PSRG is via your MSU ID card. Users must complete Worker Protection Standard Training, which must be renewed annually. Users must also complete PSRG site-specific training (email Caila Bulkowski or Lance Forsberg to schedule), both on main campus and at the HTRC (if applicable).

**It is a violation of state and federal laws for any person to work in the greenhouses without having current WPS training. This rule is strictly enforced.**

## Facility Hours

The PSRG is accessible to users at any time, including weekends and holidays. Greenhouse staff will be present Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm.

## Services

PSRG provides the following services and supplies:

- Maintenance of the greenhouse structure and mechanics is conducted by PSRG staff; MSU Infrastructure Planning and Facilities (IPF) will be called in as needed. Service Request Forms are available on the [Documents section of the PSRG website](#) (paper copies may also be available in the headhouse).
- Manual vents are closed each night when the forecast calls for temperatures below 50°F.
- PSRG staff checks and secures all exterior doors nightly.
- Plastic pots in multiple sizes are provided. Users should recycle pots after use in the appropriate location.
- Fertilizer – Osmocote Plus 15-9-12 and Peters Professional 20-20-20. Please read the information supplied by PSRG staff and follow directions to ensure proper use.
- Field soil, bagged Suremix potting media, and a mix of sand/topsoil/peat are located in the greenhouse hallways for your use. Diagnostic reports for each material are located at the Central Notification Board in the hallway of the north PSRG headhouse.
- Light bulbs will be purchased and replaced by PSRG staff. New light fixtures will be purchased as the PSRG budget allows.
- Hallways and headhouse areas are kept clean and orderly by PSRG staff.

- Storage areas are available free of charge, but space must be reserved through the Director and materials must be stored in a neat and orderly fashion. Combination locks (no keyed locks) may be used only if the combination is provided to the Director. Any items found stored in PSRG-maintained storage areas without PSRG staff knowledge will be discarded.
- PSRG supplies carts, wheelbarrows, brooms, dustpans, and shovels for users to move plants and potting media and maintain cleanliness of sections. PSRG-owned items are painted with purple to distinguish them from materials owned by individual programs. While these materials are intended for use by researchers, they must not be stored inside greenhouse sections.
- If you would like PSRG staff to assist you with construction or maintenance of equipment that is research related and not part of the greenhouse structure (for example, automatic watering systems, mist chambers, etc.), please contact the PSRG director. Assistance will be provided as time allows, and charges may be incurred for such assistance.

## Greenhouse Use Standards

The ultimate responsibility for use of a greenhouse lies with the user. Users are strongly encouraged to check greenhouse section(s) and plants daily (even on weekends). While PSRG staff monitor environmental conditions in the greenhouse, users are encouraged to do so as well, and report problems to PSRG staff.

**Plants:** Greenhouse sections are to be used to grow plants for research purposes only. **No personal plants may be grown.** Once a study has ended, users should promptly dispose of or properly store all plants, potting media, and pots in a timely manner in the appropriate locations. Food crops that are grown for research purposes must not be consumed unless the research project requires it and arrangements have been made with the Pesticide Coordinator.

**Potting Stations:** The four potting stations located in the greenhouse hallways should be used (plants should not be potted in greenhouse sections).

**Research with insects and diseases:** Users must inform the Director when research will involve insects and diseases so that arrangements can be made to prevent spread to other greenhouse sections.

**Diseased and insect-infested plants:** If you need to dispose of plants that are infected with insects or diseases, please contact the Pesticide Coordinator prior to disposal to develop a plan to mitigate spread throughout the greenhouse complex.

**Genetically modified organisms:** Please let the Greenhouse Director know if you are conducting research with GMOs so appropriate plans can be put into place.

**Storage:** Each greenhouse section may have one small cabinet for storage of tools and supplies that are frequently used; however, no pots, trays, potting media, dried/dead plant materials, fertilizer, or other chemicals may be stored on greenhouse benches. **No pesticides are to be stored in the greenhouses at any time.** As noted above, PSRG provides storage free of charge.

**Sanitation/Cleanliness:** Users are expected to maintain greenhouses in a neat and orderly fashion. While PSRG staff clean hallways, greenhouse sections should be cleaned (e.g., potting media swept from the floors) by users. Weeds should also be pulled by users; if you think the floor drains need the attention of PSRG staff, please submit a Service Request Form. As stated above, once a study has ended,

users should promptly dispose of or properly store all plants, potting media, and pots in a timely manner in the appropriate locations. Dead plants should be periodically culled and removed from the greenhouse facility.

If a greenhouse is not kept clean or free of weeds, users will receive a notice from the Greenhouse Director to remedy the problem within a short period of time. If the problem is not addressed in a timely manner, greenhouse staff will rectify the problem and the user will be charged for the labor required, with a minimum fee of \$500.

Any trash that is accumulated as you are working must be disposed of as you finish working for the day (trash should never be left in trash cans within greenhouse sections).

**Electrical hookups:** Users may not alter electrical installations. If you have any questions, please contact the Director.

**Pesticides:** The PSRG Pesticide Coordinator is available to apply pesticides and to assist users with scouting. Users are strongly encouraged to learn to identify common greenhouse insects and diseases and report issues to the Pesticide Coordinator. If plants are maintained in poor condition (e.g., insufficient or excess water, insufficient or excess fertilizer), it may not be possible to apply pesticides without causing damage to the plants.

To request pesticide applications, forms are available in the hallway of the PSRG headhouse. If you are a certified pesticide applicator and want to apply your own pesticides, please contact the Pesticide Coordinator. Users must obey pesticide re-entry intervals (REI) and not enter sections where re-entry restriction signs are posted. If a situation arises where early entry is necessary, users must contact the Pesticide Coordinator.

**Attire:** Greenhouse users must wear closed-toe shoes at all times. Sandals or other types of open-toe shoes are not permitted.

**Pets:** Pets are strictly prohibited from the greenhouse at all times.

**Bicycles:** Bicycles are not permitted in the facility. A bike rack is available outside and west of the PSRG headhouse.

**Hallway obstructions:** All greenhouse hallways must remain free of obstructions. PSRG potting stations, potting media, and equipment (carts, wheelbarrows, etc.) are located in hallways, but cabinets, containers, tables, or other greenhouse equipment should not be stored in hallways.