

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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AmericanHort Alex Laurie Award Winners Announced

Columbus, Ohio – Dr. Erik Runkle and Heidi Wollaeger, Michigan State University, were named recipients of the AmericanHort Alex Laurie Award during Cultivate'14.

The Alex Laurie Award is presented by AmericanHort to the author(s) of the most significant applied floriculture research paper published in any of the three refereed American Society for Horticultural Science publications during a calendar year.

The award was presented for “Growth Responses of Ornamental Annual Seedlings Under Different Wavelengths of Red Light Provided by Light-emitting Diodes,” published during 2013 in the *HortScience* journal.

Each researcher receives an honorarium, a plaque, and an opportunity to participate in the Cultivate'15 program.

Runkle is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University; Wollaeger is an Extension Educator with Michigan State University Extension – Kalamazoo County.

This award was established in honor of the late Alex Laurie (1892-1982), renowned floriculture teacher and researcher at The Ohio State University and founder of the Ohio Florists' Association (now AmericanHort).

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AmericanHort was formed in 2014 by the consolidation of the American Nursery & Landscape Association and OFA – The Association of Horticulture Professionals. With a combined history of 220+ years, AmericanHort supports nearly 16,000 member and affiliated businesses that include breeders, greenhouse and nursery growers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, researchers, manufacturers, and all of those who are part of the industry market chain. The horticulture industry's production, wholesale, retail, and landscape service components have annual sales of \$163 billion, and sustain over 1,150,000 full- and part-time jobs. Our mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. The association has offices in Columbus, Ohio for administration and member services, and in Washington, DC to facilitate government relations and research activities.