

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2015

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AmericanHort Appointed as Representative to International Association of Horticultural Producers

Columbus, Ohio--AmericanHort has been appointed as the official USA representative to the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH). Founded in 1948, AIPH is the global association of horticulture industry trade organizations. Among its many activities, the mission of AIPH is to stimulate increased demand for ornamental trees, plants, and flowers worldwide; to protect and promote the interests of the industry, including plant breeders' rights; and to be an international hub for industry information and knowledge exchange.

"We are proud to represent our members on the international stage through AIPH," said Michael V. Geary, CAE, the President and CEO of AmericanHort. "Joining with our peers from around the world helps to positively impact our respective government regulations and the global economy, and provides the opportunity to share research that advances our industry."

"AIPH is delighted to welcome AmericanHort into membership. The USA represents a major proportion of global production and sales of ornamental plants so it is good to see it take its rightful place within the global network of grower organizations represented within AIPH," stated Tim Briercliffe, the AIPH Secretary General. "All AIPH initiatives are designed to directly support the growers that the members represent. US growers will also see the benefits and I look forward to working with the AmericanHort team."

Twenty trade organizations from 18 countries are members of AIPH. The organization also organizes the International Grower of the Year competition, and is responsible for approving international horticultural expositions. In 2016, these include expositions in Turkey and China.

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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.