

Laura Coggan's Final Written Report



I completed my internship at Mast Young Plants in Grand Rapids, Michigan from May to August. Mast Young Plants is a wholesale commercial greenhouse grower for finished annuals, plugs, and liners. I began my internship during their transition period from spring crops and into their mum, cabbage, and kale season. I was able to see some mums finished and shipped but many were still in production when my time was up.

I was also able to participate in some of the Neal Mast Gardens trial garden set up. The trial garden was part of the Michigan Garden Tour and was used for advertising for the products Mast Young Plants grows and may provide in the future, along with how well they thrive in the Midwest climate.

The work I performed during this internship included cleaning of flood floors, drains, and algae control, cleaning of irrigation booms removing all biofilm and clearing filters so boom nozzles would spray evenly without streaming. I was able to learn how to make 250-gallon feed, micro nutrient, and magnesium sulfate barrels for constant liquid feeding of all crops on the premises, how to use dose-a-trons with sprayers and with boom chemigation, spot spraying, reverse osmosis water and pump systems, drip tape irrigation, irrigation clock operation, chemical application safety, conveyor belt internal transport system, plug and direct stick production of mums, poinsettias, kale, and cabbage, and so much more.



The skills I learned were methodical and safe application of pesticides, PGRs, and fungicides and that it is very important to remain vigilant throughout your crops. Identifying problems and issues with the crop before it spread made for some successful and satisfying problem solving.

This internship has impacted my future career and education path because I have a great passion to work for a company with more of a global purpose. Taking care of the environment that we live in is so important to my core values and I want to teach others my passion. I would like to travel with consulting companies throughout the world to teach others the importance of using what is available to you and how to maintain, sustain, and improve the environments longevity for long-term success and survival. This internship has made it clear that further education is the direction I want to proceed in and that I want to be involved with companies that share my core values of sustainability, environmental concern, and passion to teach others to improve their quality of life. I am



grateful that I was able to take part in this program and for the valuable lessons and skills I have learned. This program will only give me a better understanding of this sector of the industry and round out my work experience, providing me with the tools to succeed.

The pictures included in this report are of my first day for the MYP newsletter, two of me standing with the first group of mums shipped out in week 32, and from our trip to the Ball Horticulture Gardens in Chicago.

