

GROWER TALKS

75th ANNIVERSARY



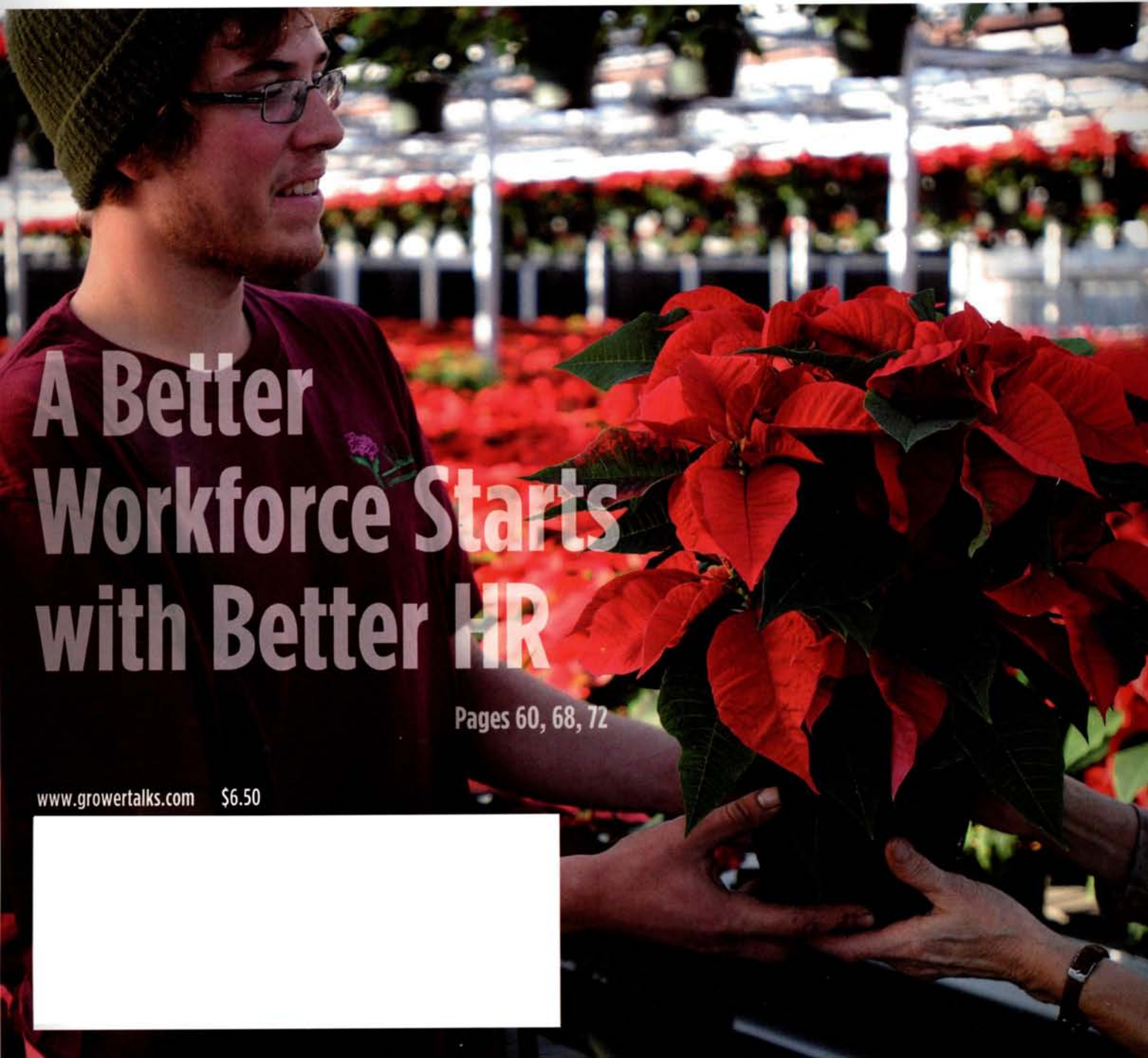
Gro. J. Ball

DECEMBER 2012
Volume 76 Number 8

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Behind the Business: OHP

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Dr. Hammer's Farewell Column

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Keep track of your propagation system from anywhere



A Better Workforce Starts with Better HR

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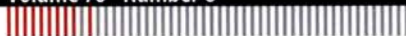


ON THE COVER

Productive, engaged employees start with the hiring process and continues each payday. We have both covered in this issue. Representing a great employee: Zach Toschak of Schaefer Greenhouses, Montgomery, Illinois. Page 60
Photo by Mark Widhalm



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FEATURES

- 34 | **Behind the Business: Olympic Effort** | by Chris Beytes
Each month during *GrowerTalks'* 75th Anniversary celebration we'll reveal little-known details about the birth, growth or success of a well-known horticultural business. This month: OHP. The well-known fungicide that helped launch Olympic Chemical Company in 1988 almost put the company out of business a few years later.
- 36 | **A Look Back: Laboring Memories** | Compiled by Jennifer Zurko
To commemorate our 75th anniversary, we're opening the door to the Ball archives, dusting off old issues of our magazine and taking a look back at the early years of our industry. This month: Our culture and economy has changed through the years, so must wages and the American worker.
- 60 | **Hiring—Up ...?** | by Jennifer Zurko
Our 17th annual Wage & Benefit survey shows that wages are holding steady and that businesses are ready to hire again.
- 68 | **Six HR Challenges** | by Anne-Marie Hardie
In the wholesale environment, the work can be both physically and mentally demanding, creating the possibility for burn out, conflict and high employee turnover. So what are the best practices for human resources in this world?
- 72 | **Make HR Someone Else's Headache** | by Thomas G. Dolan
For those businesses that don't have the luxury of an in-house HR Department, a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) can be your staffing manager without having to hire someone or do it yourself.
- 76 | **Monitor Your Propagation Anytime, Anywhere** | by Jeremy Crook & Jim Faust
The second article in our series from the Floriculture Research Alliance focuses on how the new Propagation Weather Station (PAWS) can help you better handle your misting system ... and you don't have to be in the greenhouse to do it.

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▲ Blooms of Bressingham

A real showstopper, *Leucanthemum x superbum* Freak! is loaded with 2- to 2.5-in., long-blooming, fluffy-looking white flowers. Freak! is programmable for weekly flowering and long selling season, blooming in 7 to 9 weeks. Plants have a compact habit; 13 in. tall (9 in. in pots) by 21 in. wide. First-year flowering and no pinching needed. Full sun, part shade in hot areas. USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8. A Blooms of Bressingham introduction bred by Har Stemkens of Syngenta Flowers. **Reader Service Number 150**

Interested in products listed here? Turn to the Product Information card and insert the product's Reader Service number in the box in the lower right-hand corner. Mail it in, and we'll make sure the information is sent your way!



▲ EARS Plant Photosynthesis Monitoring Ltd.

The miniPPM is a handy plant photosynthesis meter for gardeners, growers and extension workers. The measurement is based on the chlorophyll fluorescence, a very weak optical signal emitted by the plant. It's invisible, but picked up by the instrument and accurately measured to readily provide information on plant condition and growth. The miniPPM can tell if a weed is dying or if the crop is suffering from herbicide treatment. In greenhouse horticulture, the instrument shows if a crop is stressed due to excess light or water shortage. In the U.S., the instrument is used for plant breeding. **Reader Service Number 151**



▲ Growers Supply

Get a jump-start on the season and ensure that your farm stand or CSA has the highest quality produce with a Pro Solar Star High Tunnel. A roll-form frame ensures strength and longer life than other structures, while the 6 ft. high sidewalls allow for maximum usable growing space. These versatile high tunnels can be covered with greenhouse film or PolyMax woven greenhouse covering, depending on your needs. Choose drop-down sides, manufactured from 5.2-oz. greenhouse fabric, to control the air entering the high tunnel, without exposing your plants to cold drafts. **Reader Service Number 152**



▲ Pleasant View Gardens

Pleasant View announces its 2013 Multi-Liner/Foolproof Color program, with 22 combos from which to choose. Multiple Proven Winner varieties in each liner cell make container planting uniform. There's a reduced shipping cost as fewer liner trays are required for combinations. Proven combinations ensure success for growers, retailers and gardeners. Foolproof Color bench cards and signs are available to enhance selling at point of purchase. The New Attitude combination (pictured) includes Supertunia Mini Strawberry Pink Veined Petunia, Lucia Dark Blue Lobelia and Snowstorm Giant Snowflake Sutera. **Reader Service Number 153**



▲ Premier Tech Horticulture

PRO-MIX PUR Powder and PRO-MIX PUR Granular are mycorrhizal inoculants that will meet the needs and requirements of growers of high-value crops. Premier Tech says its products are formulated from the only 100% contaminant-free mycorrhizae in the market—MYCORRHIZAE Premier Tech, PRO-MIX PUR—are the only mycorrhizal inoculants that can answer growers main concerns with inoculants: sterility and performance. Benefits include higher yields and healthier plants, which is achieved by improving nutrient and water uptake, and increasing plant survival rate, resistance and crop vigor. Both products come with one of the highest mycorrhizae concentrations available and a guaranteed minimum analysis certified by the EPA in most states. **Reader Service Number 154**



▲ Terra Nova Nurseries Inc.

Eucomis Dark Star has dark, red-black foliage. This dwarf eucomis is hardy and grows in a clumping habit. In the fall, Dark Star produces pink flowers. The average size includes 14 in. width, 9 in. height, 10 in. flower height and it performs well in Zones 7-10. Eucomis Dark Star needs full sun or part shade for optimal growth. It's drought-tolerant and is perfect for containers, mixed beds and borders. This variety is easy-to-grow and requires coarse, slightly organic soil. **Reader Service Number 155**

SMALL GIANTS

We're looking for our next set of small giants—products that choose to be great instead of big. Send us your product: ahaikila@ballpublishing.com