



RICK YATES

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and nursery supplies



Rick Yates is Griffin's Technical Support Manager and provides technical support for greenhouse crop production by telephone, fax, and e-mail to growers from Maine to Virginia. Rick earned his Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from the University of Maryland in 1979. Since that time he has created over 50 technical bulletins and keeps them updated on an ongoing basis. He has been building a digital photograph library of plant problems to assist him in his problem solving efforts for Griffin customers. Rick authors technical articles for the Griffin Gazette, as well as for other publications such as the Greenhouse IPM Notes, a publication from Cornell and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Maryland Hortflash, OFA bulletin and the Pennsylvania Floral Industry Association newsletter. Rick recently fielded 99 grower calls in one day on topics including crop nutrition, insect and disease control, crop scheduling, variety selection, growth regulators, spraying/fogging equipment and related topics. He speaks publicly on pesticides and growth regulators for pesticide credits in states from Maine to Virginia to Ohio.

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Technical Support
DEPARTMENT

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PETER KONJOIAN



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CHARLES ELSTRODT

Dr. Peter Konjoian has served as Griffin's Education Coordinator since 1996. His responsibilities include scheduling grower education seminars at branch locations and Open Houses, contributions to the Griffin Gazette, and working with Griffin's sales staff. His education includes a Bachelor's Degree of Science from the University of New Hampshire, and Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Horticulture from the Ohio State University. Peter has returned to Ohio State recently as a part time, visiting professor in the Horticulture and Crop Sciences department. He also works with the Ohio Florists' Association as a consultant and is involved with OFA's Bulletin and "Tips on Growing" series of greenhouse production and management books, as well as with the Short Course. He continues to run Konjoian's Greenhouses in Andover, MA with his family, a 50,000 square foot retail operation which provides an excellent setting for floriculture research and development of new products.

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Lou DeSisto has been part of the Griffin family for the last 22 years. Currently he is the Technical Support Director and has account responsibility. Lou grew up in a family run greenhouse, nursery and landscaping business in Barrington, RI. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Rhode Island in the department of Plant and Soil Science. After graduating he worked as a grower at a wholesale holiday plant producer on Long Island, New York. He moved to Massachusetts and worked as head grower at a large greenhouse operation which specialized in geranium propagation and production. Since joining Griffin he has performed many jobs including road salesman, product specialist, and sales manager. During this time Lou has acquired an extensive knowledge of Griffin's product lines, helping him serve both growers and sales staff.

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Dr. Charles (Chuck) Elstrodt grew up in a nursery and landscape business in York, PA. He received his Bachelor's Degree of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from Delaware Valley College, and his Masters and Ph.D. in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Elstrodt became a Professor in the Department of Horticulture at VA Tech, where he, as the State Extension Horticulture Specialist, worked extensively with the nursery and greenhouse industries in Virginia. He left the university to join Sierra Chemical Company, which later became Grace-Sierra, and is now a part of the Scotts Company. During those years he held several positions ranging from regional sales manager to director of technical services. Chuck left Scotts after seventeen years to join the Geiger Company as Vice President of Technical Services. When Geiger was acquired by Griffin Greenhouse and Nursery Supplies, he joined Griffin's Technical Support and Sales Support groups, with primary emphasis on the nursery and landscape industries.

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Griffin's Technical Support Team has definitely got you covered. Whether it's greenhouse production, nursery and landscape production, or floriculture and nursery business management, Rick Yates, Chuck Elstrodt, Lou DeSisto and Peter Konjoian provide decades of experience, national reputations, and cutting edge advice for floriculture and nursery professionals.