

## Southern Plant Board

**President:** Awinash Bhatkar, Texas (512) 463-5025  
**Vice President:** Kenny Naylor, Oklahoma (405) 522-5879  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** David Gianino, Virginia (804) 786-5525

**Contact Address:** Texas Department of Agriculture  
Plant Quality Program  
P.O. Box 12847  
Austin, Texas 78711

### SPB Meeting Contact Address

University of Kentucky  
Attn: Department of Entomology  
S-225 Ag. Science Center North  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

## 2024 Southern Plant Board – Annual Meeting Invitation May 6-9, 2024

Dear Southern Plant Board Members and guests:

It is our pleasure to host the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Southern Plant Board from May 6-9, 2024 in the horse capital of the world, Lexington, Kentucky. Our conference promises to be another exciting and productive meeting as we strive to continue our mission of protecting agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and the environment.

### Accommodations/Room Rates

Lexington Marriott City Center  
121 West Vine Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Click this [link](#) to book the room online. Alternatively you may contact the hotel directly at 1 (800) 228-9290 or (859) 253-1000 and mention the code SPB to get the conference rate.

- A room rate of \$116 per night will be honored from May 5-12, 2024. Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes, which currently totals 16.07%.
- The last day to make room reservations at the conference rate is April 15, 2024.
- Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check out time is 1:00 PM.

Please note there are 2 hotels connected within this city block: the host hotel (Marriott) and Residence Inn. The room rate will not be honored at the Residence Inn.

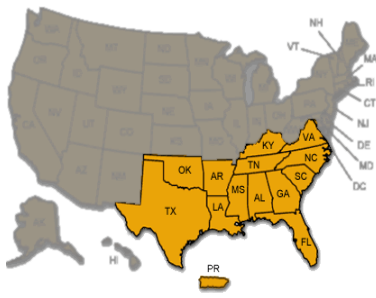
### Transportation and Parking

The nearest airport is Blue Grass Airport (LEX), which is about 6 miles away from the Marriott City Center Lexington. Transportation to and from the airport are the responsibility of the traveler. The hotel does not provide a shuttle.

Parking at the Marriot Lexington City Center is complimentary (self-parking only). The entrance to the hotel parking is off West Vine Street, next to Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse (38.04607, -84.49821).

#### Member States

Alabama – Arkansas – Florida – Georgia – Kentucky – Louisiana – Mississippi  
North Carolina – Oklahoma – Puerto Rico – South Carolina – Tennessee – Texas – Virginia



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### Registration

Registration for the full event will be \$500, per attendee. To register online for the 2024 Southern Plant Board Meeting [Click here](#). Registration is only available online and the deadline to receive the **early registration rate is April 15, 2024**. After that, the rate increases to \$525 per registrant. No refunds will be available after April 19, 2024. If payment cannot be made online, please go ahead and register and then contact [David Gianino](#) for steps to pay with a check. **All registrations must be completed by April 22, 2024.**

### Meeting Schedule

Monday, May 6, 2024	Registration and Evening Reception
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	General Session and Breakout Sessions
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Morning Sessions, Afternoon Activities
Thursday, May 9, 2024	Business Meeting and Breakout Sessions Adjourns at Noon

### Climate

The average high temperature for Lexington in early May is the low 70s with lows in the 50s. But if you have ever watched the Kentucky Derby, you know that Kentucky weather in early May can be quite variable. 80-degree highs are not uncommon as are highs in the 50s and 60s. The best bet is to keep an eye on the forecast before you come!

Plan to bring comfortable footwear for our tour as we will be visiting outdoor sites that will require some walking.

**Note:** Lexington is in the eastern time zone.

### Door Prizes

If you would like to donate a door prize representing your state or agency, we will be collecting them at the Registration Desk. A door prize form will be provided so proper credit can be given to the donor.

### Tabling at SPB

For those that are interested, we will have 6 ft display tables available at no cost. Please indicate if you would like to have a table on the registration form.

### Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding registration, Lexington, or the meeting as a whole, please contact either Joe Collins or Janet Lensing. Phone 859.257.5838 or via email [joe.collins@uky.edu](mailto:joe.collins@uky.edu) or [janet.lensing@uky.edu](mailto:janet.lensing@uky.edu)

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