

# Southern Plant Board

**President:** Steven Long, South Carolina (864) 646-2135

**Vice President:** David Gianino, Virginia (804) 786-5525

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Mark Stoll, Arkansas (501) 219-6302

## **SPB Meeting Contact Address**

Louisiana Dept. of Ag and Forestry  
Attn: Horticulture & Quarantine Division  
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 3002  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

## **2026 Southern Plant Board – Annual Meeting Invitation May 4-7, 2026**

Dear Southern Plant Board Members and Guests:

We are delighted to host the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Southern Plant Board from May 4-7, 2026, in Baton Rouge, the capital city of Louisiana. We are excited to offer a conference agenda packed with valuable learning and networking opportunities. These sessions are designed to further our mission of safeguarding agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and the environment.

### **Accommodation & Room Rates**

The meeting will be held at:  
Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center  
201 Lafayette Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

We have guaranteed a block of rooms at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center with information below:

- The SPB Meeting room rate is **\$110.00 per night**. Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes, which currently totals 15.95%.
- If you wish to extend your stay beyond the meeting dates, or if you have issues booking your room, contact the hotel directly at (225) 906-5783 and reference **Special Rate Group-Southern Plant Board Meeting**.
- The last day to make hotel room reservations at the conference rate is **April 13, 2026**.

Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check out time is 11:00 AM. The hotel will provide complementary luggage storage for early arrivals and late departures.

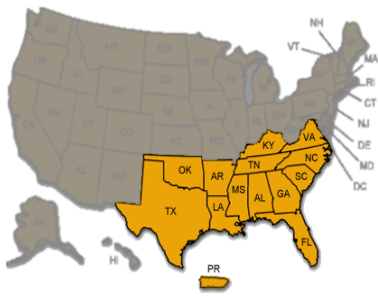
Click this [link](#) to book your room online. **Hotel reservations must be made by April 13, 2026.**

### **Transportation and Parking**

The nearest airport is Baton Rouge (BTR) which is about 8 miles away from the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center. Transportation to and from the airport are the responsibility of the traveler. The Hilton does provide a complimentary shuttle from BTR. The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)

#### **Member States**

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



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is located about 70 miles from the hotel for those that are interested. There is no shuttle service available from New Orleans.

Parking at the Hilton is \$28.00 per night for valet. There is self-parking available adjacent to the hotel through a third-party vendor. These rates fluctuate and range from \$25-\$35 for 24 hours and are paid using a mobile app. The hotel is also offering a day parking rate of \$18 for those commuting.

## Registration

Registration for the event will be **\$525 per attendee**. To register online for the 2026 Southern Plant Board Meeting [Click here](#). Registration is only available online and there is no early registration discount, but we encourage you to register early, please. If payment cannot be made online, please go ahead and register and then contact Mark Stoll (SPB Secretary Treasurer) at [mark.stoll@arkansas.gov](mailto:mark.stoll@arkansas.gov) and Ellen Roth (NPB Admin) [ellen.roth@nasda.org](mailto:ellen.roth@nasda.org) for steps to pay with a check. **All registrations must be completed by April 20, 2026.**

## Meeting Schedule

Monday, May 4, 2026 – Registration and Evening Reception (tentative)

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 – General Session and Breakout Sessions

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – Morning Sessions, Afternoon Tour

Thursday, May 7, 2026 – Business Meeting and Breakout Sessions Adjourns at Noon

## Climate

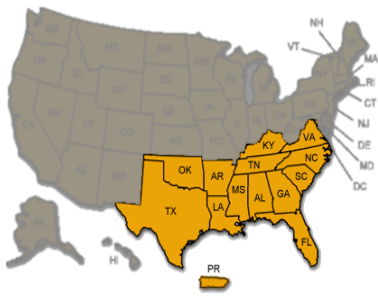
Baton Rouge, in early May, brings warm, increasingly humid, summer-like weather with the average highs in the low to mid 80s and the lows in the mid-60s. Be sure to pack comfortable footwear and an umbrella or raincoat (just in case), as there's a variety of great restaurants within walking distance from the hotel.

## Local Tour

On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 6 SPB Meeting attendees will participate in a **Louisiana Farm Production Tour and Dinner at Four Oaks Farm**. Meeting attendees will take a bus to visit a local

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Louisiana farm in Morganza, Louisiana to learn about their crop system, including crawfish, rice, cattle, soybeans, and sugarcane. Attendees will learn about pest challenges, crop rotation cycles with integrated pest management, and other unique farm practices. Attendees will also be provided with dinner as a part of the tour. Dinner will be a crawfish boil. Since this is an outdoor tour, please plan to bring appropriate outdoor wear, appropriate footwear, and plan to bring rain gear.

There is a limited number of slots available for this tour and dinner.

## **Note:**

Baton Rouge is in the central time zone (CT).

## **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. If you want to ship them to the meeting in advance, please contact Tina Peltier at [tpeltier@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:tpeltier@ldaf.state.la.us) to coordinate a shipment. A door prize form will be listed on the Cvent event site 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, Baton Rouge, or the meeting as a whole, please contact Tina Peltier: Office Phone 225-952-8051, Cell Phone 225-718-2144 or via email [tpeltier@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:tpeltier@ldaf.state.la.us).

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