



Little Rock, AR

July 30 - August 3, 2023



97th Annual National Plant Board Meeting

July 30 through August 3, 2023

Little Rock, AR

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture would like to formally invite you to Little Rock to attend the 97th Annual National Plant Board Meeting.

This event will start on Sunday evening (7/30) with our Welcome Reception followed by four days of meetings, presentations, field trips, and the Banquet. This year's meeting will be unique in that we will have concurrent sessions for a portion of the agenda.



Meeting Registration

Register online for the 2023 National Plant Board meeting via our <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/97th-annual-national-plant-board-meeting-tickets-585622160647>. Registration is only available online, and the deadline to receive the early registration rate of \$500 for the entire week is July 14, 2023. Single day registration also closes on August 3, 2023, and is available for Monday, July 31st for \$200; Tuesday, August 1st for \$100; Wednesday, August 2nd for \$200, and for Thursday (half-day meeting), August 3rd for \$75. The late registration cost is \$525 and begins July 15, 2023. Guest Registration is available for guests of attendees who will not be attending any portions of the meeting but joining the attendee for meals and/or field trip. Guest registration will be \$275.



Accommodations / Room Rates

The 97th National Plant Board meeting will be hosted at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Little Rock, located at 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211. Reservations can be

made by calling 1-800- EMBASSY, or by visiting [National Plant Board 97th Annual Mtg](#) . If calling, be sure to mention the group code, which is NPB, to receive the special group rate of \$98.00 per night.

Hotel reservations must be made by 5:00 p.m. on July 14, 2023. Check-in time begins at 4pm and checkout time is 11am.



Transportation

The nearest airport is the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport (LIT). Transportation to and from the airport is the responsibility of the traveler.

Car rental information: <https://www.clintonairport.com/parking-transportation/car-rental/>, other Ground Transportation: <https://www.clintonairport.com/parking-transportation/ground-transportation/>.

The Embassy Suites is located 12.8 miles west of the airport. Approximately 15–20-minute drive.



Hotel Parking

Embassy Suites by Hilton- 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211.

Parking is available on site at the Embassy Suites. Surface parking is \$6.00/night, and the parking garage is \$8.50/night.



Climate

Little Rock, AR in late July- early August has an average high temperature of 93°F and an average low temperature of 71°F and tends to be humid, hot, and sticky. The Field trip on Tuesday, August 1st will include some outside areas and a greenhouse, so please consider packing appropriate clothing.



Door Prizes

Please consider bringing a door prize item from your state or agency to share with the group. We will have multiple door prize giveaways over the course of the meeting, and it is a fantastic way to introduce your state to others! The form for the door prizes will be posted on the National Plant Board meeting site, and we ask that you include your name, agency, state, and item to expedite the giveaway process for the meeting facilitators.



Display Tables

If you or your agency would like to have a display table, please let us know! Tables will be provided for the week in the pre-function area for displays and handouts. Please email Donna Wilkerson, donna.wilkerson@agriculture.arkansas.gov , at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture with interest.



Field Trip

The Field Trip will be on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. The field trip will consist of a visit to The Nurserie to learn about their urban farming strategies. We will then have lunch on the bus as we travel to the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, which has been newly expanded and completely remodeled.



Optional Field Trip on Thursday

The Pine Pandemic Preparedness Plan (P4) Field Trip will be offered free of charge for the first 50 participants that sign up. This field trip will be from 1-4pm on 8/3. P4 outlines the steps needed to recognize and stop outbreaks of currently unknown new invasive pests causing significant injury to pine trees in the Southern U.S. On this tour we will visit an intensively managed loblolly pine forest and a naturally regenerated shortleaf pine/mixed hardwood forest to discuss how the P4 can be implemented in these environments.



Contact Information

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Baylee Downey at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, baylee.downey@agriculture.arkansas.gov .