

# 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National Plant Board Meeting

July 27 – July 30, 2026

Alexandria, Virginia

The Mid-Atlantic SPRO-alition (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.) formally invites you to the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National Plant Board Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, at **The Westin Alexandria Old Town** July 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. July 26<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> are travel days. A National Plant Board (NPB), Board of Directors (BOD) meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 5:00pm. A NPB BOD, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Leadership meeting will be held on Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 4:00pm, so for those attendees, travel day will likely be July 31, 2026.

## Meeting Registration

Register online for the 2026 National Plant Board Meeting:

[CVENT Event Page](#)

**FOR USDA** – Register online for the 2026 National Plant Board Meeting and enter the Promo Code provided to USDA Leadership. There is a full meeting registration and a one-day registration option. [CVENT Event Page](#)

**Registration is only available online. Registration must be completed on or before July 7, 2026.**

- **Registration:** \$775.00 (by July 7, 2026). Every attendee must submit a separate registration.
- **One-day Registration** (for PPQ only): \$150.00.
- **Adult guest registration:** \$400.00. Every guest must submit a separate registration. (For non-attendees accompanying registered guests to the banquet. *Registration includes hors d'oeuvres at the NPB Reception on July 26, 2026, four (4) breakfasts at the hotel, entry to Mount Vernon, and dinner at the NPB Banquet and awards ceremony.*)
- **Child guest registration:** Free (for children younger than 12)

## Westin Alexandria – Old Town Alexandria

The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National Plant Board Meeting will be held at the **Westin Alexandria, located at 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314**. The hotel rooms and accommodations will also be housed in the Westin Alexandria.

With a nice blend of modern convenience and boutique sophistication, The Westin Alexandria Old Town is perfect for conducting business and exploring historic charm. You'll find beauty along the cobblestone streets and red brick sidewalks in Old Town Alexandria, home to specialty shops, boutiques, and museums. Just across the Potomac River, you can discover first-class attractions at National Harbor and Washington, D.C.

## Accommodations / Room Rates

Hotel accommodations will be at The Westin Alexandria Old Town. Reservations can be made for The Westin Alexandria Old Town by reserving online by clicking this booking link: <https://book.passkey.com/gt/221032509?gtid=e07d30b45fe3ad2e91ea936593f05c73>. The group rate is **\$183.00** plus service charges and taxes. This group rate may be offered from Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Hotel reservations must be made on or before **Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**, to be eligible for the group rate. Check-in time opens at 3:00 PM; early arrivals may be accommodated based on availability. Check-out time is 12:00 PM.

## Hotel Parking

Overnight hotel guests for our group (National Plant Board) will be \$40.00/per night for valet parking, with rates subject to change. The parking deck has a 6' 2" height clearance.

Additional parking is available nearby at [Colonial Parking](#) (2050 Ballenger Avenue, Alexandria 22314) with a daily parking maximum of \$10/per day, based on availability and a clearance of 8'. This parking deck is located approximately 200 feet from The Westin. Additionally, a parking deck on 550 Elisabeth Lane, West Garage (located approximately 300 feet from The Westin) with a daily maximum of \$10, based on availability and with a clearance 8' 2".

## Transportation to Hotel

Located just five miles south of Washington, D.C., Alexandria, VA is minutes from [Reagan National Airport](#) and an easy commute to [Dulles International Airport](#) and [Baltimore International Airport](#). The city is serviced by almost all of the major airline carriers, with over 300 nonstop destinations and 1,000 daily departures.

The Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) is the closest airport to the Westin, approximately 5 miles away. Traditional taxi service and rideshare (Uber/Lyft) options are available at DCA. There is no hotel shuttle option. Additionally, if flying into the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), the **yellow line** is approximately a 10-minute rail ride with a \$2.50 fare.

## Local Transportation

The [King Street Trolley](#) runs every 15 minutes between Alexandria City Hall/Market Square and the King St. – Old Town Metrorail station from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays. The King Street Trolley is **free**.

The infamous Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) provides a direct local transportation option to NPB Meeting attendees. The King Street Metro station is just a half mile away from The Westin and is approximately a 15-minute walk from the hotel. Rates and a map of the service areas can be found at the [Metro's Website](#).

## Weather

In late July/early August, Alexandria, Virginia has an average high temperature of 85 degrees and an average low of 72 degrees. In Alexandria, the summers are hot and muggy. We will be outside for the majority of the field trip on Wednesday, so please bring appropriate clothing and sunblock, as well as walking shoes. We also will be participating in our banquet, immediately following our afternoon tours, so please be prepared to dress light, summer-business.

## Door Prizes

**We will be distributing door prizes as part of the meeting in Alexandria.** If you want to bring a door prize, please complete the Door Prize Form and return to David Gianino via email: [david.gianino@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:david.gianino@vdacs.virginia.gov).

## Field Trip

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Plant Board, the field trip for the 2026 annual meeting will take place at [George Washington's Mount Vernon](#). The home of America's first president, George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, is one of the nation's most visited historic sites, located just outside of Washington, D.C. Entry to Mount Vernon is included in the price of your registration, including a special garden tour and a scheduled mansion tour.



**Please note: Mount Vernon's policy prohibits bags larger than 16"x16"x8". All bags will be screened.**

After the Wednesday morning session, meeting attendees will be provided with a boxed lunch at 12:00pm. Attendees will then load onto buses outside of our hotel between 12:45pm - 1:00pm.

Attendees will arrive at Mount Vernon around 1:30pm. Every attendee will also be provided a mansion tour. The group will gather outside the mansion at 1:50pm for our 2:00pm tour. Our group will be split into three separate groups for the mansion tour. In addition, the Mount Vernon team will provide a guided garden tour at 3:00pm. The group will be split into two groups.



After the tour, attendees will be able to walk around the grounds and explore the tranquility of George Washington's historic home site.

At 5:00pm, the National Plant Board will host its banquet and award ceremony at the Mount Vernon Inn and Restaurant on site at Mount Vernon. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant is located on the grounds of George Washington's estate. Your meal is included with the cost of registration. Attendees will need to select their entrée, as this is a plated three course meal. After the banquet, attendees will then return to the buses around 7:00pm and return to the hotel.

## The City of Alexandria

Alexandria, Virginia, is a nationally recognized historic destination located on the Potomac River, directly across from Washington, D.C. Founded in 1749, the city is famous for its Old Town district—the nation's third-oldest—which features beautifully preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture and red-brick sidewalks. It has been frequently voted one of the best small cities in the U.S. by publications like Condé Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure.

Stroll the "King Street Mile," home to over 200 independent boutiques and chef-driven restaurants. For a quick way to see the sights, visitors can hop on the free King Street Trolley. The bustling marina offers outdoor dining with stunning views of the Potomac River. You can take a sightseeing cruise, a water taxi to D.C., or tour the Tall Ship Providence, a reproduction of a Continental Navy ship. For more information on activities and things to do in Alexandria, please visit <https://visitalexandria.com/>.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact any member of the Mid-Atlantic SPRO-a-lition – David Gianino (VA) [david.gianino@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:david.gianino@vdacs.virginia.gov), Kim Rice (MD), [kimberly.rice@maryland.gov](mailto:kimberly.rice@maryland.gov), Jeffery Brothers (DE), [jeffrey.brothers@delaware.gov](mailto:jeffrey.brothers@delaware.gov), or Damien Ossi (Washington, D.C), [damien.ossi@dc.gov](mailto:damien.ossi@dc.gov).

