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Maran Wins 2007 GrowerTalks Young Grower Award



Anna Ball, CEO of Ball Horticultural, and Steve Larson, of BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, flank Young Grower Award winner Mike Maran.

Ohio State alum **Michael Maran**, head grower at [Gedert's Greenhouse](#) in Maumee, Ohio, was recognized by [BASF Turf & Ornamentals](#) with the 2007 GrowerTalks Young Grower Award at the OFA Short Course in Columbus, Ohio in an awards ceremony that took place on Saturday, July 14.

In its third year, the award, which is also co-sponsored by the [Ball Horticultural Company](#) and [OFA](#), an Association of Floriculture Professionals, is open to any grower age 35 or under who submits an essay answering an important industry question. This year's question was, "What do we need to do to make our industry more exciting to today's consumers?"

The judging committee narrowed the field of [fifteen essays](#) down to five finalists, including Maran, **Yudisne 'Judy' Albano**, **Josh Bell**, **Chris Hart** and **Jimmy Seemann**. OSU alum **Keith Bemerer** (BS 2004 Crop Science) also contributed an essay to the contest.



Steve Larson, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, presents Mike Maran with the 2007 GrowerTalks Young Grower Award at the OFA Short Course.

"Innovation is the foundation of our company and we see the same passion for overcoming challenges in these finalists. They are the best of the best of their generation," said **Steve Larson**, BASF Turf & Ornamentals national ornamentals account manager.

Maran, who earned his bachelor's of agriculture degree in 1995, observed that many consumers do not see the full potential of purchased plants because growers rely heavily on growth retardants to produce more plant material in less space, in his essay.

"The consumer needs to feel successful in order to have the confidence to grow more plants," said Maran. "Using techniques such as DIF (Differential Between Day/Night Temperature), effective scheduling and proper irrigation can give the producer the quality needed and demanded by today's gardeners."

Maran reveals the keys to attracting and keeping good talent in an article in the September 2007 issue of Grower Talks - [Job Security](#).

"Recognizing innovative ideas such as Michael Maran's, and sponsoring the Young Grower Award competition underscores BASF's commitment to provide growers with the tools to produce better plants," said **Dr. Toni Bucci**, BASF Turf & Ornamentals business manager. "BASF is proud to support the exchange of ideas and build on this industry's successes."

Story and photos courtesy Chris Beytes, GrowerTalks. Web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).

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