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**MSHS Caters to Growing Pepper Craze at the Minnesota State Fair**  
*Pepper Passion Educational Display in the Ag./Hort. Building*

**Roseville, MN:** Each year, the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) exhibits at the Minnesota State Fair with a retail booth, an educational display, an Adopt-a-Garden, and a potted plant show that runs the first two days of the fair. Inspired by the grow-your-own trend and a Minnesotan with an obsession with peppers, this year's educational display will be titled Pepper Passion.

The Minnesota State Fair will be held Thursday, August 24 through Monday, September 4, 2017. MSHS exhibits in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building on the corner of Underwood Street and Judson Avenue; MSHS booths are located in The Dirt wing of the building along with The Dirt stage. The building is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

MSHS' Pepper Passion educational display will include plenty of growing information on peppers and potted peppers on display from Steve Marier, who grows more than 650 plants each year for his own use. Steve sells thousands of pepper plants from his greenhouse at the Hugo Feed Mill in Hugo, Minnesota each year. Peppers need a long growing season, so the display will include information on starting pepper seeds and what interesting varieties will grow in Minnesota.

**About the Minnesota State Horticultural Society:** MSHS' mission is to serve northern gardeners through education, encouragement and community with a focus on horticulture. It was founded in 1866 as an association of fruit growers who took on the challenge of growing apples in a northern climate. Today, MSHS serves northern gardeners of all experience levels through community outreach and educational programs, membership, *Northern Gardener* magazine and classes. In 2016, MSHS celebrated its 150th anniversary and is looking ahead to address current issues in horticulture, such as helping gardeners provide habitat and food for pollinators and helping low-income families and at-risk youth learn to vegetable garden.

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