



Contact: Jill Cain, Owner & Managing Member jill@eaglecreekwholesale.com 330.569.7933

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Eagle Creek Takes the Next Step in its Sustainability Commitment and Earns VeriFlora® Certification

Mantua, OH – Eagle Creek Growers continues its quiet and methodical approach to sustainable business practices by earning VeriFlora® certification. The VeriFlora® program provides stringent sustainability performance standards for growers addressing environmental accountability, the health and well-being of workers, their families and communities, and product quality. “This was a natural next step for us in our continuing commitment to sustainability. I believe it adds value not only for our wholesale accounts but also the end consumer,” says Jill Cain, Owner of Eagle Creek. “VeriFlora® provides us an independent, third party certification that consumers can trust.”

VeriFlora® requires its growers, including Eagle Creek, meet stringent guidelines in the areas of crop production, ecosystem management, resource conservation, energy efficiency, integrated waste management, worker safety, workplace conditions, and product quality. “Energy efficiency and conservation has been the focus in our expansion efforts over the last 5 years.” says Cain. “5 years ago when natural gas prices started going through the roof, we knew we had to do something big to sustain ourselves and the company. We installed our 300 HP Biomass Boiler system in 2006 and in 2009 we installed a 50 KW Wind Turbine. Both projects have helped us save energy and money, as well as reduce our carbon foot print. It’s a win-win all around.”

The Biomass heating system generates heat for the entire greenhouse range using recycled wood chips, saw dust, and horse manure, thus eliminating gas and oil consumption. The Wind Turbine, which has now been in place almost 1 full year, has helped the company save between 10% - 15% on its electricity.

Eagle Creek’s greenhouses and production warehouses are equipped with high efficiency light fixtures with motion sensors. These sensors turn lights on only when people enter the area, and have reduced power consumption by one-third. Additionally, Eagle Creek has installed ebb and flow flooring designed to recycle all water used on site, reducing runoff and overall consumption. Moreover, all greenhouses have energy curtains designed to maintain appropriate temperatures overnight, which has reduced heat usage by up to 50%.

VeriFlora® has helped Eagle Creek concentrate on other areas of sustainability and environmental stewardship such as reducing the use of chemicals in the greenhouse and using more beneficial insects and natural biological controls.

Eagle Creek's goal is to maintain a high quality product for the consumer, while reducing environmental impacts across its production process.

Eagle Creek is a family owned and operated wholesale operation. Consumers can find Eagle Creek products at their retail division, Eagle Creek Garden Center located in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, but also throughout the Cleveland, Columbus, and Pittsburgh markets. Eagle Creek grows mainly annual color, including spring annuals, fall mums, poinsettias, and holiday potted plants. For more information, log on to www.eaglecreekgrowers.com

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) and VeriFlora is an independent certifier of environmental, health and safety claims. For more than two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standard and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental improvements, social accountability, and product performance. There are more than one billion flower stems certified "sustainably grown" under the VeriFlora label. For more information: www.SCScertified.com and www.VeriFlora.com.