



2026 RAKER-ROBERTA'S TRIAL GARDENS

SPONSOR PROGRAM

THE CONNECTION

EVENTS

SPONSOR ROWS

PRIVATE / CLOSED
TRIALS

LARGE CONTAINERS

HANGING BASKETS

SPONSOR BEDS

HARD GOODS

GENERAL SPONSOR



2026 RAKER-ROBERTA'S TRIAL GARDENS

The 2026 Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens provide an opportunity to showcase your new and upcoming varieties to an ever-increasing number of industry experts and decision-makers.

The Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens – located in the middle of everywhere – are our primary means to conduct row, hanging basket, and large container plant trials. Last year, the Gardens displayed in excess of 3,200 unique varieties and attracted more than 1,400 horticulture professionals from around the world. In addition to onsite attendance, our trial website – <http://trialgardens.raker.com> – routinely has 5,000+ visitors each year.

Open from July 15 - September 1, the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' season starts immediately after Cultivate'26 and continues throughout the summer.

Each Monday through Friday, Raker-Roberta's provides refreshments, restroom facilities, and a covered meeting area (w / wifi network) capable of hosting 200+ people. Contact us to discuss the

opportunities available.

Summer 2026 marks the twenty-third year Raker-Roberta's will participate in the Michigan Garden Plant Tour. The Tour is a two-week event (July 27–August 7) that delivers well over 1,000 horticulture professionals to the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens.

This 2026 Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens Prospectus outlines sponsorship opportunities available for your company to demonstrate your products' features and benefits.

In the hort industry, a typical tradeshow cost per lead is \$150 – invest \$150 to attain 1 lead, \$450 to attain 3 leads, etc.

A \$100 investment at the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens provides your product at least 2,000 views during the season.

Sponsorship opportunities are available on a "first come, first serve" basis. Raker-Roberta's will make every effort to accommodate interested sponsors, but space is limited. Based on previous years, it is advisable to reserve your space as soon as possible.



THE CONNECTION

2026



Since 2009, over 25,000 horticulturists have visited the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens – Even with the pandemic in 2021, more than 1,300 individuals visited the gardens!

Each year, the aim of Raker-Roberta's is to bring these individuals together for our big summer event: The 2026 Connection.

The Connection became popular as both a starting and ending point for the Michigan Garden Plant Tour.

Our grass roots event grows from the roots of the horticulture industry. The intent is to create a forum among our industry's base product – plants. Plants connect us.

The Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens are an excellent setting to engage with horticulture professionals. The Gardens offer a rich venue of over eight acres of trials, sponsored showcase beds, and beautifully landscaped grounds. The 2026 Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens will contain over 3,200 unique plant varieties and more than 108,000 individual plants.

Real Plants

Real People

Real Casual

If your company wants to connect with Breeders, Brokers, Growers, Retailers, Finish Wholesalers, IGC Owners, Young Plant Producers, and Home Gardeners – the 2026 Connection is the place to be.

This prospectus offers seven sponsorship types: Plants, Food, Beverage, Booths, Music, Services, and General Sponsorship.

Join us July 30, 2026, to celebrate the independent spirit of the Horticulture Industry.

Contact Emily Wildt, Raker-Roberta's Garden Event Coordinator, (EmilyWildt@raker.com) to learn about the 2026 Connection and how your company can participate.

If it rains, we've got you covered!





EVENTS



The Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens are the perfect venue to interact with your customers, suppliers, industry contacts, and guests. Over the years, Raker-Roberta's has worked with various associations, brokerages, and suppliers to host a variety of events. We will work with you in 2026 to make your company event a success.

In addition to the breath-taking view of over 3,200 unique plant varieties in multiple forms and settings, the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens are outfitted with air conditioned restrooms, wi-fi network, ample parking, and a 2,400 ft² covered area capable of seating well over 200 people.

Our team will assist you with all aspects of your Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' Event. Assisting with catered meals, suggesting overnight accommodations, catering meals, and providing dedicated meeting areas, especially for your event are examples of value-added services our team will provide.

Raker-Roberta's views our Events as partnership opportunities. We are continuously looking for ways to increase our attendance, so a portion of the costs associated with a Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' Event may be shared between your company and Raker-Roberta's.

Please contact Emily Wildt (EmilyWildt@raker.com) to discuss Event sponsorships.



SPONSOR ROWS

A primary focus of the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens, Sponsor Rows are located in the 10 beds immediately west and south of the primary meeting area. A perfect opportunity to display your genetics in a true, side-by-side evaluation.

There are 300 Sponsor Rows available, each measuring 15 feet. You may sponsor individual rows or entire beds (30 rows/bed).

Raker-Roberta's evaluates and photographs Sponsor Row content as part of our weekly data collection initiative. This information is immediately displayed on the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' website (<http://trialgardens.raker.com>).

We use a 1-5 scale for the performance of the plants.

1=poor, 2=below average, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent

Points we take into consideration when scoring are, how are the plants holding up to the weather? Do they look healthy in regard to nutrition/disease pressure? How does the variety look compared to others? For the stand alone entries that don't have anything to compare them to the rating is based solely among that entry's performance. For something like Petunias the rating is based on how it is performing with the other submissions of petunias.

You supply the inputs (seed, unrooted or rooted cutting, etc.) and applicable care information. Our team provides propagation, planting, and maintenance throughout the trial season.

Each Sponsor Row is labeled with your company name and the plant's genus, species, and cultivar on a large, waterproof label. If applicable, the originator information is included

Sponsor Rows may be located in either full sun or shade and are planted in raised rows covered with black plastic and mulch. Sponsor Rows receive water / nutrients regularly via in-ground irrigation tape.

Please contact Kristi Challender (kristichallender@raker.com) to reserve Sponsor Rows.

\$125 PER SPONSOR ROW





LARGE CONTAINERS

Strategically located at the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' entrance, the Large Container Gallery is an impressive space to feature your new genetics. Currently, we offer 265 large containers available to exhibit these varieties.

This immense area is quickly gaining distinction as the Midwestern alternative to the California Pack Trials. The 20-inch containers are arranged on a series of tiers, displaying your genetics prominently.

Raker-Roberta's evaluates and photographs Large Container content as part of our weekly data collection initiative. This information is immediately displayed on the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' website (<http://trialgardens.raker.com>).

You supply the inputs (seed, unrooted or rooted cutting, etc.) and applicable care information. Our team provides propagation, planting, and maintenance throughout the trial season.

Each Large Container is labeled with your company name and the plant's genus, species, and cultivar on a large, waterproof label. If applicable, the originator information is included.

This Large Container Gallery offers 265 containers located in full sun and up to 90 containers located in shade. Each container receives water / nutrients via irrigation drip tube.

Please contact Kristi Challender (kristichallender@raker.com) to reserve your Large Containers.



\$100 PER LARGE CONTAINER

\$125 PER Mixed Container



HANGING BASKETS

Also positioned at the entrance to the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens, the Hanging Basket displays are hot spots for horticulture visitors.

This area is a splendid showcase to feature plantings of new, trailing plant genetics. The 14-inch Hanging Baskets are positioned approximately 60 inches from the ground and allow trailing plants to achieve their full genetic potential.

You supply the inputs (seed, unrooted or rooted cutting, etc.) and applicable care information. Our team provides propagation, planting, and maintenance throughout the trial season.

Raker-Roberta's evaluates and photographs Hanging Basket content as part of our weekly data collection initiative. This information is immediately displayed on the

Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' website (<http://trialgardens.raker.com>).

Each Hanging Basket is labeled with your company name and the plant's genus, species, and cultivar on a large, waterproof label. If applicable, the originator information is included.

The Hanging Basket area is located in full sun and receives water / nutrients via irrigation drip tubes.

Please contact Kristi Challender (kristichallender@raker.com) to reserve your Hanging Baskets.

\$100 PER HANGING BASKET
\$125 per Mixed HB





SPONSOR BEDS

Located on the perimeter of the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens, Sponsor Beds offer the best opportunity to showcase plant product in a wide variety of displays. There are 12 Sponsor Beds available. Each is elevated about 2' and measures approximately 25' x 30' (750 ft² of growing space).

Design is your choice. Our team will work closely with you to make your vision become a reality - designs have included florascapes, row trials, or sets of large containers (limit 20 per bed). Sponsors may either submit a design or work with our landscape designer to create one based on your plant list. Please use the current "Sponsor Bed Layout" form included with this Prospectus to submit your design.

Raker-Roberta's will photograph Sponsor Bed content throughout the summer. In addition to the design, you supply the inputs (seed, unrooted or rooted cutting, etc.), applicable care information, and concept explanation.



Hardscape and accent items are welcome, but Raker-Roberta's reserves the right to use or not use these items, and a small fee may be applied. Our team provides propagation, planting, and maintenance throughout the trial season.

Plants within each Sponsor Bed are labeled with your company name and the plant's genus, species, and cultivar on a large, waterproof label. If applicable, the originator information is included.

Sponsor Beds are located in full sun and receive water / nutrients regularly via above ground sprinklers or hand irrigation.

Please contact Kristi Challender (kristichallender@raker.com) to reserve your Sponsor Bed.

\$2,500 PER SPONSOR BED
+ \$100.00 if R2 designs bed



HARD GOODS

In addition to plant-related sponsors, the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens is continuously seeking additional contributors for various materials.

The Hard Goods Sponsorship is a fairly large category encompassing all non-plant items.

For example, the RRTG uses 265+ pots for the Large Container Trials. Over the past few years, these 20-inch containers have been clay, plastic, and fiber. In addition to large containers, we use over 400 hanging baskets each year. Let us know your ideas!

Over the years, we have added fountains, sculptures, and garden structures to various areas of the Gardens. The Hydration Station is an area donated by Rough Brothers, Inc. that is a popular destination within the Gardens and has stood the test of time. It is also going to be a remembrance garden for friends, colleagues, and family that have passed.

In addition to garden-related items, the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens constantly needs office and outdoor event gear.

Office gear could include pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, or additional items usually distributed at trade shows.

Outdoor event gear may include hats, sun visors, umbrellas, sun lotion, or any items relating to sun shade or cover.

The minimum for office or outdoor event gear is 100 items. The maximum is up to you.

Please keep in mind the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens is seeking quality materials.

Please contact Emily Wildt (EmilyWildt@raker.com) to discuss Hard Good sponsorships before purchasing or sending items.



GENERAL SPONSORSHIPS

If you are looking for a sponsorship opportunity and none of the presented options fit, the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens accepts monetary sponsorships.

All sponsors contributing money to the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens will be appropriately recognized in all marketing and communication materials.

Please contact Emily Wildt (EmilyWildt@raker.com) regarding General Sponsorships for both the 2026 Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens and the Connection.





PRIVATE / CLOSED TRIALS

Confidential areas dedicated to trialing new and/or experimental genetics are offered in several areas secluded and isolated from the main Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens' area.

Private / Closed Trials are available for a number of uses: evaluation of unreleased genetics, comparison of commercial vs. noncommercial genetics, application of chemicals or techniques. Raker-Roberta's will work with you to determine the criteria for a valid trial.

Access to Private / Closed Trials is limited to the visitor list you provide. We require all visitors to register upon arrival at the Raker-Roberta's Trial Gardens.

You supply the inputs, applicable care information, and concept explanation. Our team provides propagation, planting, and maintenance throughout the trial season. Also, we offer additional services, such as data and image collection, to suit your requirements. Plant labelling is also based on your criteria.

Areas may be reserved for single or multiple years. Trials may be conducted in rows, hanging baskets, or large containers in full sun or shade.

Space is limited. Please contact Kristi Challender (kristichallender@raker.com) to discuss available opportunities.





THANK YOU

2025 RRTG SPONSORS

All American Selections
Ball Floraplant
Benary
BFG Supply
Blackmore Company
Beekenkamp
Cerny Seed
Danziger
Darwin Perennials
Dummen Orange
Express
ForemostCo
Garden Choice
Greenfuse Botanicals
Griffin
Hem Genetics
InFlora Cut Flowers

JR Peters
Kieft Seed
Kientzler North America
Pan American Seed
Prudac
Pureline Seeds
Roberta's Unique Plants
Sahin
Sakata
Selecta
Sun Gro Horticulture
Suntory
Syngenta Flowers
Takii
Terra Nova
Vandenberg Hort
Westhoff

