



## MassGrown and Fresher News: May – A Time for Planting!

May is a great time of the year! As we all know, April showers bring May Flowers! Our



Massachusetts independent [greenhouses and nurseries](#) are well stocked with flowers, trees and plants. They also offer a wealth of information and ready to help you with your lawn, yard and garden needs. Get out there and [Plant Something!](#)

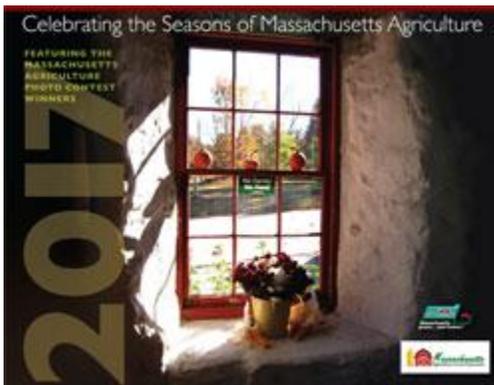


We've heard from our orchard farmers the peach buds and blossoms have weathered the ups and downs of New England temperatures well this winter and expect a good crop this year. Now the apple blossoms are coming out. An important asset in agriculture often times overlooked is the pollination work by our bees.

Massachusetts is home to a large and diverse beekeeping industry as current estimates indicate that we have between 4-5000 beekeepers managing between 40-45,000 hives. Over 45% of agricultural commodities in Massachusetts rely on bees for crop pollination. In addition to pollination, bees such as honey bees also provide other valuable products including wax, propolis, royal jelly and honey. We have started mapping beekeepers who are selling honey and related products. [Learn more here.](#) Seasonal beekeeping workshops are also starting this weekend at the Department's hives at UMass Amherst, [details here.](#)

Visit our [Calendar of Culinary and Agricultural events](#) for even more things to do. Be sure to check with the organizer's website beforehand for any last minute changes.

- **May 20** - [Honey Bee Education Days at State Apiary \(Spring Management\)](#) @UMass, Amherst
- **May 20** - [Asparagus Field Trip and Lunch](#) @Verrill Farm, Concord
- **May 20** - [Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival](#) @West Brookfield Common
- **May 21** - [Barn Tour & Milking Demonstration](#) @Coopers Hilltop Dairy, Leicester
- **May 27 & 28** - [43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair](#) @Cummington Fairgrounds
- **June 3** - [7th Annual Langstroth Bee Fest](#) – Greenfield
- **June 9 & 10** - [6th Annual Hyper-Local Craft Brewfest](#) - Somerville



## Annual Massachusetts Calendar Photo Contest

Once again, we are looking for amateur photographers to submit photos for the 2018 “*Celebrating the Seasons of Massachusetts Agriculture*” calendar. Help us and [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) create an attractive, colorful and educational calendar that is a daily reminder of our rich and diverse agricultural heritage in

Massachusetts. It is a great tool for teachers, as it includes “Fun Facts” and “Teaching Tips.” Each month will feature one full-size photograph portraying a local farm or farm product in season. See last year’s winning photos [here](#). Send us pictures of Massachusetts flowers, maple syrup, cows, cranberries, apples, barns, and more! Submit up to five of your favorites! [Details and online submission information here.](#)

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To submit a culinary or agricultural event, click on submission form [here](#). Bookmark the [calendar](#) today, and follow us on [Twitter @Massgrown](#).

