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State Officials Urge Consumers to Support Massachusetts Agriculture
with Locally Grown Garden Plants

May through June is the best time of year to pick up Massachusetts-grown plants
at farm stands and garden centers

BOSTON – With Mother’s Day right around the corner, now is a great time to support Massachusetts agriculture by purchasing plants and fresh flowers from one of the Commonwealth’s many local growers, farm stands and garden centers.

Gardening is the nation’s number one leisure activity, according to the Massachusetts Flower Growers’ Association, and Massachusetts garden centers and farm stands provide a tremendous variety of plants for seasoned and new gardeners alike. In fact, the Bay State is in the top 20 states when it comes to the production of flowering plants including annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and container plants. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) points out that purchasing plants grown in the Bay State helps the environment since it takes less fuel to get those plants from the ground to consumers’ homes. Massachusetts-grown plants and flowers are also fresher, will last longer, and are acclimated to the local environment.

“Buying local flowers and bedding plants is a great way to show support for Massachusetts agriculture,” said DAR Commissioner Douglas Petersen. “It’s good for our environment and our economy.”

Massachusetts flower growers offer a wide array of Mother’s Day options, including hanging baskets, geraniums, impatiens, perennials and vegetables. For more information and to find locations of local growers, go to www.Mass.gov/massgrown or www.Massflowergrowers.com.

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