

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes May as Native Plant Month, highlighting the importance of enhancing biological diversity and the need for shared stewardship of natural resources to ensure a sustainable and resilient ecosystem for future generations; and

Whereas, The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)'s mission as the steward of nearly half a million acres of public forests, beaches, trails, parks and watersheds is to preserve, protect and enhance our commonwealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all; and

Whereas, DCR and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) established the Growing Wild Massachusetts program in 2021 to encourage the creation of native plant habitats that support pollinators, birds, and wildlife across the state by promoting that everyone has a role to play in supporting biodiversity; and

Whereas, In 2023, the program partnered with the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association and later with the Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) Leading by Example Program to provide the public with tools, resources and opportunities to enhance the biological diversity of their private lands by planting native plants that support local wildlife and pollinators; and

Whereas, Growing Wild Massachusetts has partnered with Tribal communities in Massachusetts to expand access to native plants of cultural significance to Indigenous populations, further advancing inclusive environmental stewardship and broadening the program's impact across the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Growing Wild Massachusetts received the 2025 Innovation Award from the National Association of State Park Directors, in recognition of its efforts to expand pollinator habitats and promote public engagement in conservation; and

Whereas, Since 2021, including the 2026 Growing Wild season, Growing Wild Massachusetts will have distributed more than 22,000 complimentary native plants through its Growing Wild Starter Kits program, providing Massachusetts residents in communities across the state with free native plants, native wildflower seed mix and the necessary resources to create and enhance native plant habitats on their properties and growing spaces, totaling an estimated 12 acres of new habitat; and

Whereas, Growing Wild Massachusetts offers educational resources to the public, emphasizing the importance of pollination systems, native plant gardening, no mow areas, and supporting local wildlife and native pollinators, and their critical role in maintaining a healthy and thriving ecosystem,

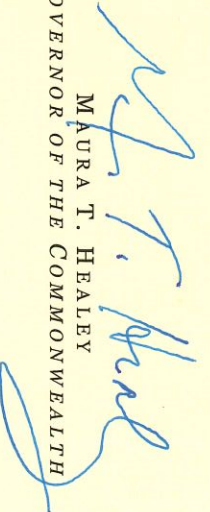
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 29th, 2026, to be,

GROWING WILD MASSACHUSETTS DAY

And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of May, in the year two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts