



## MassGrown and Fresher News – “Growing Wild” for Pollinators

It’s National Pollinator Week!

It's that time of year again when we celebrate those amazing little creatures that we all rely on to produce all the fruits and seeds for us to eat and enjoy. Today, [we kicked off Pollinator week](#) at the [MDAR hives](#) at UMass Amherst. All this week, be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to get the local BUZZ about pollinators - and for details on a sweet honey prize giveaway!



The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), recently kicked-off the second year of the *Growing Wild Massachusetts* campaign with an event at Bigelow Nurseries in the Town of Northborough ([Facebook post](#)). The Growing Wild Massachusetts initiative aims to promote and preserve pollinators throughout the Commonwealth, and offered the public free Growing Wild starter kits and other educational resources to create a pollinator-friendly native plant habitat, boost pollinator populations, and inspire shared responsibility for preserving and enhancing native habitats. [Full Release here.](#) #GrowingWildMA #PlantSomethingMA

Looking for tools for developing home pollinator-friendly landscapes using native plant species? Details on plants, seeds, and sourcing, [click here.](#)

For more pollinator news, check out [The Pollinator Partnership](#). Did you know that over 150 food crops in the United States depend on pollinators for producing fruits or seeds for human food? 🍷🍇🍓🍌🍍🍎

Of course, we think one of the best products that our pollinators make is honey! 🍯 To learn more local honey producers near you, [click here.](#)





## Pollinators and Strawberries: Time is Ripe for Massachusetts Strawberries!

Learn more about Pick-Your-Own(PYO) Farms: [www.mass.gov/guides/pick-your-own-farms](http://www.mass.gov/guides/pick-your-own-farms) - \*Be sure to check websites or call ahead for conditions.

Farmers Markets are also a great place for summer strawberries! [Find the closest farmers market near you.](#)

**#JuneDairyMonth** continues on! Follow us on [Facebook](#) for the rest of the month for posts and updates on all things Dairy in Massachusetts!



## MA Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest – Deadline July 1<sup>st</sup> !

Submit your best photos to our annual Photo Contest! Open to the public and farmers to submit their favorite photos! We are looking for a range of photos to spotlight throughout the year: farm animals, flowers, maple, fruits and vegetables, farmers mkts, bees and pollinators, cranberries, apples, pumpkins, Christmas trees and more! Twelve Winners will be included in the **2023** “*Celebrating the Seasons of Massachusetts Agriculture*” calendar and invited to the Big E on Massachusetts Day! The Winning cover photographer wins a “Sweet” MassGrown basket (honey, maple syrup ‘n more!).

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC), MDAR, and the MA State Grange each year create this attractive, colorful and educational calendar that is a daily reminder of our rich and diverse agricultural landscape in Massachusetts. The annual Calendar serves as 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](#).



Contest rules [here](#). You can submit up to five photos [online here!](#)

[MAC’s Teacher of the Year](#) – Michelle Cook from Brookside School in Dracut.

Produced by the [Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources](#).

