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# Grow Native *massachusetts*

*Every garden matters ~ Every landscape counts®*



May 2026 Newsletter

## It's That Time Again! Grow Native Plant Sale 2026

**Friday May 29:** *Open to Grow Native members*

**Saturday May 30:** *Open to all*

Advanced registration is required to participate in our sale. We stagger arrival times at 30 minute intervals to ease crowding and traffic in the parking lot.

**OUR LOCATION:**

7 Harrington Road  
Lexington, MA 02421

**Shopping sign-ups open at the end of next week!** Members will receive the announcement in advance, via email. [Learn more.](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no discount period at the end of this sale. Instead, we are delighted to be able to contribute our leftover native plants to partner organizations for their ecological restoration and community landscape projects. Thank you for understanding!

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## Help us make our sale a success!

This event is powered by dozens of dedicated volunteers. Lending a hand is a great way to learn about native plants (and even take a few home early).

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER](#) at the Plant Sale.

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## More Upcoming Programs You Won't Want to Miss...



NATIVE PLANT POP-UP MARKETS

### May 2026 Markets

#### [Carlisle Route to Sustainability Day](#)

**May 3** | 1:00 - 4:00pm

Carlisle Public School Gym, enter from parking lot on Church St.

#### [Davis Square Farmers Market](#)

**May 20** | 12:00 - 6:00pm

44 Day St, Somerville, MA 02144

Get native plants from local growers, and bring them all your plant and garden questions! We will be joined by growers from our native nursery network, including [Checkerspot Farm](#), [1 Acre of Trees](#), [Red Trillium Gardens](#), [Mystic Meadows Gardens](#), [Butterfly Effect Farm](#), [Tree Talk Natives](#), and [Hilltop Natives](#). They start much of their stock from seed (often local ecotype), and curate their inventory with an eye toward species of particular value to pollinators, caterpillars, and other threatened wildlife. All of them are passionate advocates for native plants and creating habitat in our gardens. Come get some great, locally grown native plants!

## Check Out Our May Pop-Up Markets

### WORKSHOP

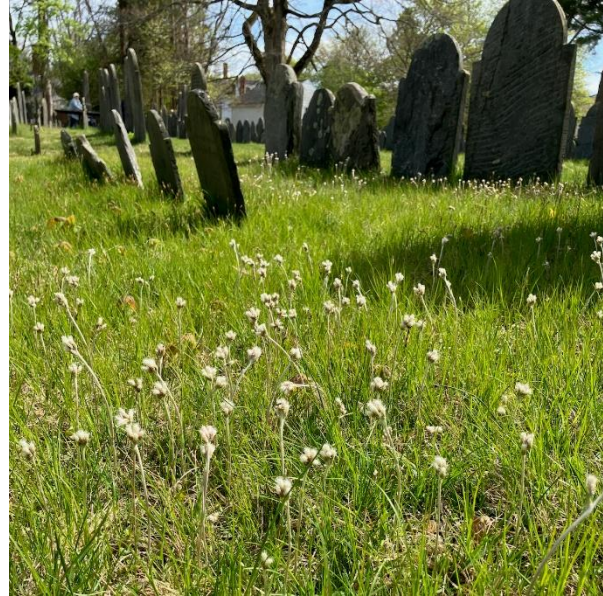
## The Native Flora of Lexington's Old Burying Ground

**Instructor:** Meredith Gallogly, Grow  
Native Massachusetts

**When:** May 7 | 6:00 - 7:30pm

**Where:** 7 Harrington Rd, Lexington, MA

**Fee:** Member \$35/ Non-member \$45/  
Workshop Sponsor \$100



The lawn in the colonial-era Burying Ground in Lexington contains many native plant species typical of dry woodlands and ridges in eastern MA—species no longer seen in the residential yards and parking lots past the cemetery gates. Join us to learn why, and what this old landscape can teach us about cultivating ecologically vibrant lawns today

*This workshop will be conducted in the field. Enrollment is limited.*

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)



## ECOLOGY ACTIONS

### Spring 2026 Actions

#### **Invasive Plant Removal** with [The Trustees](#)

May 13 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Millborn Farm, Sherborn, MA

#### **Beverly BioBlitz Kick-Off** with [Green Beverly](#) & [Plant Magic Gardens](#)

May 31 | 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
J.C. Phillips Preserve, Beverly, MA

#### **Invasive Plant Removal** with [North County Land Trust](#)

June 16th | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Dwelly Farm, Templeton, MA

Ecology Actions are opportunities to help partner organizations with their community stewardship projects that support biodiversity.

This program was born of the many inquiries we get from people eager to help with hands-on projects. By partnering with other non-profits and community groups, and providing their projects with additional helping hands, we hope to harness this energy and expand our impact together.

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

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EVENINGS WITH EXPERTS

## Explore the Nighttime World of Caterpillars & Moths

**Speaker:** [The Caterpillar Lab](#)

**When:** May 20 | 7:00 - 8:30pm

**Where:** IN PERSON at [New England  
Botanic Garden](#) at Tower Hill, 11  
French Drive, Boylston, MA & ONLINE  
via Zoom



**Fee:** FREE

The Caterpillar Lab will present a photograph and video packed talk that explores the nighttime world of caterpillars, moths, and how to find them. Join us to learn how we can explore our own backyard habitats through the eyes of a moth, using UV and special light traps to uncover a whole new perspective.

[More Info & Zoom Registration](#)

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MAPN MONTHLY PRESENTATION  
**Little Bugs in the Big City:  
Urban Pollinator Habitat  
Gardening**

**Speaker:** Chris Kreussling (Flatbush Gardener), [New York Master Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide](#)

**When:** May 26 | 7:00 - 8:00pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Fee:** Free

With urban real estate at such a premium, how do our smallest neighbors—especially pollinating insects—make their way? What can we do to help them survive and thrive? In the concrete jungle, is it worth it to even try?

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

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**For even more great programs, check out our  
[Upcoming Partner Events](#) listings!**

You visit this interactive calendar anytime to catch up on what's going on around the state (and beyond!). You can also [SUBMIT](#) any native plant, ecological landscaping, or habitat creation/restoration events that are not already listed.

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**Bulletin Board**

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## How to Talk to Your Neighbors About Pesticides

You already know to reduce your own pesticide use as much as possible in order to support pollinators in your garden. However, your neighbors might not be on the same page yet. Talking with a neighbor about pesticides can feel challenging, so Xerces has put together [strategies and talking points](#) to help you start navigating the conversation!



## Enter the Chat - Habitat Chat!

The Massachusetts Pollinator Network hosts free monthly drop-in, informal meetings for participants from across the state to learn about topics relevant to our work, share projects, ask questions, and exchange knowledge, ideas, and updates.

[Sign up](#) to receive the Zoom link.

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## Photo of the Month



## Black Throated Green Warbler Visits Tent Caterpillar Nest in a Black Cherry Tree

Photo credit: [A. Driscoll](#), CC-BY-NC via iNaturalist.

The silken nests that eastern tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma americanum*) build are large and quite striking. In the years that the species has a population surge it can feel like an alien invader is proliferating in the landscape. But this native “pest” insect is typically kept well in check by natural predators like parasitoid wasps, resulting in a boom/bust population cycle. Nests are frequently found on black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), a favored host plant. Caterpillars stay protected in the nest during the day and emerge at night to munch away on cherry leaves. They will sometimes heavily defoliate trees, but black cherry is a hardy species and healthy individuals typically don’t suffer any lasting effects. Because tent caterpillars are covered in dense bristles most birds don’t eat them. Cuckoos, who can cast off their stomach linings plus any bristles embedded therein, will gorge upon them, and [orioles are known](#) to cleverly eat around the bristles. The black-throated green warbler (*Setophaga virens*) seen here is “picking apart the tent caterpillar web,” as described by the photographer who has “never seen that type of activity before.” It is possible that rather than going for the caterpillars, this warbler was actually collecting silk to use in its own nest.

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**Header Photo:** *Zizia spp.* (Golden Alexanders ). © [Thomas Shahan](#), CC-BY-NC.

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**We inspire people to action  
across Massachusetts, on behalf  
of native plants and the  
diversity of life they support.**

***We are passionate about our  
mission. Please join with us to  
make it a reality.***

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