

Some Local Resources for Insecticide-free Seeds, Seedlings and Plants

Please note – there may be other resources, vendors selling organic seeds, etc., but these are ones we have spoken to directly.

All Organic Vegetables ~ Herbs ~ Annual Flowers

Belmont: Audubon's Habitat: Juniper Road: Plant sale on May 10

Framingham – Garden in the Woods: New England Wildflower Society, garden shop opens April 12th – a good source of native plants.

Newton Community Farms: Plant sale Saturday May 17, Sunday May 18.

Waltham Fields Community Farms: Saturday plant sales – May 10 and May 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m: They also have a Facebook page.

Waltham – Gore Place: Plant sale May 23, 24, 25.

One with a caveat:

Waltham – Lyman Estate: – practices are organic but they use seeds from Richter's, which does use pesticides: Plant sales are May 2-4 and May 10-11.

And latecomer to the list:

Worcester Conservation District: seedling sale (order before 3/29) mwc@commonwaters.org

Trees, veggies, herbs, flowers and perennials - more than 50 types of seedling including nearly 20 that can be planted in rain gardens. Ed Himlan of the Worcester County Conservation District (WCCD) is pleased to announce that our 2014 Annual Seedling Sale will focus on plantings to attract and benefit native pollinators and honeybees. Visit www.worcesterconservation.org to order your seedlings, fruit trees, potted perennials and herbs, and check out the pollinator "butterfly" selections!

Commercial Sellers ~ Committed to Healthy Bees

Our early investigations turned up these local, safe sources (some not open for season yet):

Allandale Farm in Brookline: (259 Allandale Rd., Boston 02467, 617-524-1531.) They are growing more and more of their own plants, from organic seeds with organic practices. They have beehives on the grounds and are intentionally selling perennials that will flower through the whole growing season, especially into the fall.

Russell's Garden Center in Wayland: (508-561-3946): Their veggies are all organic, and they practice IPM generally. They are actively exploring ways to promote the health of pollinators and are planning a pollinator garden.

Pemberton Farms Garden Center in Cambridge: Similar to Lyman Estate: Once the plants arrive at Pemberton's, no pesticides are used. Many of their herbs come from Gilbertie's Herbs in Westport CT, which is all-organic. (We are still researching their other suppliers at this time.)

Reminder: Many other big box stores and some well-known growers (even those advertising plants for bees and/or butterflies) were less than forthcoming on their practices. While protests at Home Depot and Lowe's recently made headlines, and Home Depot has talked about looking into the issue, we recommend you stick to ORGANIC seeds and ASK at any location you are interested in: "Are your plants treated with neonicotinoids or other pesticides or fungicides that harm bees?"

If enough people ask the question, they'll get the message. Vote with your dollars ☺