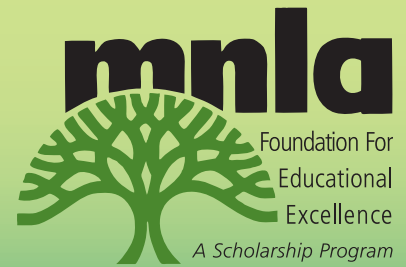


GATHER & GROW

Be Part of the Future of Green Industry Professionals!



Wednesday, October 7, 2026

9:30am–12:30pm ■ Includes 2 MCH CEUs

Weston Nurseries ■ 40 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA

Hosted by MNLA and the MNLA Foundation for Educational Excellence!

AGENDA

9:30am Welcome and Introductions

- Brief introduction
- Explain the event structure and hands-on activities to come

Icebreaker Activity—We invite all attendees to learn more about each other and green industry careers in a fun, interactive way.

10:00am Hands-on Workshops with Rotating Stations

Station 1: Growing & Plant Care This is hands on where we will pot a plant in a biodegradable pot and learn the basics of soil health, watering, and light requirements.

Station 2: Recycling & Compost Learn about the significance of composting and recycling waste in green industries. This is a hands-on sorting activity where we will separate recyclables from non-recyclables while seeing innovative upcycling plastic pots. Additionally, we will explore what can and cannot be composted for maximum plant nourishment.

Station 3: Landscape Design An introduction to the basics of landscape design of the right plant/right place and how sustainable design improves urban spaces. In small groups “within the group” we will design a small garden or outdoor space. Focus will be on sustainable landscaping practices such as native plants, water conservation, and green spaces.

11:30am–12:30pm Careers In Horticulture & Landscaping

Panel of professionals share their pathways to the green industry, followed by a Q&A session. Students will be encouraged to ask questions about potential careers in the field, educational paths, and real-world applications of landscaping and horticulture.

Closing and Reflection Discussion: A great opportunity for students to share one thing they learned and a new idea they found exciting.

Lunch Included

Feel free to bring your own lunch or join us for hot dogs on the grill with no frills! Sponsored by MNLA members who have contributed to the MNLA Youth Initiative.

The Conversation Continues

When the student buses pull away, the conversation continues! Industry professionals are invited to stay for an informal networking session with MNLA leadership. Share your successes, discuss industry challenges, and help guide MNLA's vision and planning for 2027 and beyond.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Massachusetts high school students, educators, MCHs and MNLA members are invited to participate in MNLA's fall Youth Initiative educational program on “The Wonderful World of Horticulture & Landscape!”

Learn more: mnla.com/gatherandgrow

INDUSTRY & STUDENTS

—join us for an exciting event!

- Network with green industry peer professionals.
- Engage with students looking for career opportunities.
- Discover career opportunities by networking with MNLA members.
- Learn about sustainable practices.
- Join in hands-on activities.
- Support the future of the green industry or become a part of it.

Pricing

Educators & accompanying students: **FREE**

MNLA members: **\$35 each**

MCH non-members: **\$45 each**

Non-members: **\$70 each**

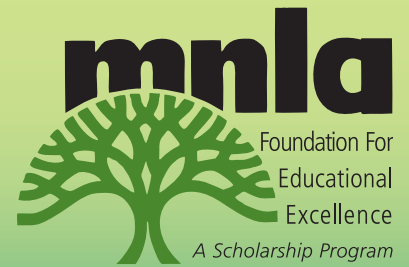
Visit mnla.com/gatherandgrow to register online and learn more about becoming an event sponsor!



MNLA ■ P.O. Box 924 ■ Palmer MA 01069
413-369-4731 ■ mnlaoffice@gmail.com

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The MNLA Board of Directors and MNLA Foundation invite you to support **Gather & Grow**, a program connecting high school students with industry professionals to promote careers in horticulture, landscape, and agriculture.

We are seeking sponsorships to reach our goal of \$15,000, allowing us to offer this event at a highly affordable cost to MNLA members, MCHs and attending schools. **Two MCH credits available to industry professional event attendees.**

RSVP Required

Swag Sponsor deadline: September 7, 2026

Table Sponsor and attendee deadline: September 28, 2026

Swag Sponsor—\$500

- Your **company name & logo** displayed at the group sponsor tables (feel free to bring literature for the tables) and included on event signage, printed programs, student and teacher swag items, and post-event thank-you email
- Recognition in MNLA digital newsletter and social media
- Opportunity to include **one branded item** in attendee bags
- Includes **four attendee registrations**

Table Sponsor—\$300

- Your **company name & logo** displayed at the group sponsor tables (feel free to bring literature for the tables)
- Recognition in printed program
- Verbal acknowledgment during the welcome session
- Great option for small businesses or those looking for visible event-day exposure
- Includes **two attendee registrations**

Scan the QR code for more about the MNLA Youth Initiative Program and to donate to the future of our green industry!



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