

GATHER & GROW

Be Part of the Future of Green Industry Professionals!



Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Student participation 9:30am–12:30pm

Industry professional participation 8:30am–2:00pm

Weston Nurseries ■ 93 E. Main Street, Hopkinton, MA

**A member appreciation and education event
hosted by MNLA and the MNLA Foundation
for Educational Excellence!**

STUDENT AGENDA

9:30am Welcome and Introductions

- Brief introduction to the importance of sustainability and the green industry.
- Overview of potential career paths such as horticulture, landscape architecture, arboriculture, and environmental science.
- Explain the event structure and hands-on activities to come.

10:00am Icebreaker Activity: "Green Career Bingo"

Learn about green industry careers in a fun, interactive way. **How it works:**

- Each student receives a bingo card with career-related terms like landscaper, grower, retail, urban farmer, recycling specialist, botanist, and others.
- Students mingle and talk with industry professionals, trying to match career titles with descriptions or activities.
- First student to complete a line wins a prize!

10:30am 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.

11:00am–1:00pm Lunch by Snappy Dog

11:45am 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.

12:15pm Closing and Reflection

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



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Massachusetts high school students, educators and MNLA members are invited to a 3-hour 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

MNLA members: \$35 each

Educators & accompanying students: FREE

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**

GATHER & GROW

Be Part of the Future of Green Industry Professionals!



Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Student participation 9:30am–12:30pm

Industry professional participation 8:30am–2:00pm

Weston Nurseries ■ 93 E. Main Street, Hopkinton, MA

**A member appreciation and education event
hosted by MNLA and the MNLA Foundation
for Educational Excellence!**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The MNLA Board of Directors and MNLA Foundation invite you to support **Gather & Grow**, a brand-new 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 both MNLA members and attending schools.

Limited availability—deadline: September 10, 2025

Swag Sponsor—\$500

- Your **company logo** included on:
 - Event signage
 - Printed programs
 - Student and teacher swag items
 - Post-event thank-you email
- Recognition in MNLA digital newsletter and social media
- Opportunity to include **one branded item** in attendee bags

Table Sponsor—\$300

- Your **company name and logo** displayed at one student exhibitor or networking table
- Recognition in printed program
- Verbal acknowledgment during the welcome session
- Great option for small businesses or those looking for visible event-day exposure

Sponsorship Goal—\$15,000

Your support helps us:

- Provide **high-quality programming** to students and teachers statewide
- Offer **accessible attendance** at just **\$35 per person**
- Facilitate valuable **MNLA member networking opportunities**

PROFESSIONAL AGENDA

8:00am Registration Opens

8:30am Weeds of 2025 with Randy Prostack

Pesticide credit requested.

10:30am Hands-on Workshops

Participate in the students hands-on educational workshops:

- Station 1: Growing & Plant Care
- Station 2: Recycling & Compost
- Station 3: Landscape Design

11:00am–1:00pm Lunch by Snappy Dog

11:45am Careers In Horticulture & Landscaping

Q&A Session: Allow students to ask questions about potential careers in the field, educational paths, and real-world applications of landscaping and horticulture.

12:15pm Closing and Reflection

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

12:30–2:30pm PRO Networking Session: Connect, Share & Grow

Join us for a MNLA member-only networking event following our student-focused Green Industry Showcase. This two-hour session is your opportunity to connect with fellow professionals from the nursery, landscape, and greenhouse sectors in a relaxed, engaging environment. Enjoy meaningful conversations, share your biggest wins and toughest challenges, and gain fresh insights from peers. The day will end featuring a dynamic panel discussion diving into the top three industry issues identified during lunch—a great chance to collaborate, problem-solve, and strengthen your professional network.



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

Registration

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