

Massachusetts' Green Industry at a Glance

Since 1910, the Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) has represented the Commonwealth's nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, horticulture, and landscape professionals. Our mission is simple: to be a **Resource for Success** for the businesses that grow, design, install, and maintain Massachusetts' green spaces.



Economic Impact

- **\$4–5+ billion annual economic impact**
- **40,000+ jobs supported statewide.**
- **2,000+ nursery, greenhouse & floriculture operations**
- Thousands of landscape and tree care businesses in every legislative district
- One of Massachusetts' top agricultural commodity sectors

Green industry businesses are predominantly small and family-owned, creating local jobs and strengthening regional economies.

Environmental Value

Green industry professionals are environmental stewards:

- Trees and landscapes reduce carbon and urban heat.
- Plants improve air and water quality.
- Landscapes manage stormwater and prevent erosion.
- Native plant production supports pollinators and biodiversity.
- Green space improves public health and property values.

Legislative Priorities *(details on page 2)*



MNLA supports:

- Workforce development & vocational horticulture programs
- Science-based environmental policy
- Agricultural preservation & local plant production
- Climate-resilient landscapes & green infrastructure investment
- Small business protections

The green industry is agriculture. It is climate resiliency. It is economic development.



Thank you for celebrating Mass Ag Day with MNLA!

This small but mighty plant represents the strength, resilience, and year-round beauty of the horticulture industry right here in Massachusetts.

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Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association Legislative Priorities

- 1. *Environmental Bond Bill Request*** : Establish a capital grant program to support small businesses transitioning from gas-powered nursery and landscape maintenance equipment to low-noise, low-emissions electric alternatives. Funding shall support the purchase of electric equipment as well as related infrastructure necessary for operation and maintenance, including charging stations, electrical upgrades, battery storage, training, and safe disposal of gas-powered equipment.
- 2. *S.1370 and H.2100: An Act Relative to Snow Removal Service Liability Limitation***: Invalidates as against public policy any clause in a snow removal and ice control services contract that requires one party to indemnify or hold harmless the other for that other party's acts or omissions, including those of its agents or employees, whether benefiting the service receiver or provider. Defines covered contracts to include plowing, shoveling, de-icing, and incidental services such as operating or moving related equipment or materials. **MNLA supports this bill.**
- 3. *Effort to redefine greenhouses in the building code Building Board of Regulations and Standards***: While not a matter of legislation, there is a proposal under consideration by the BBRS to redefine Greenhouses in the 11th edition of the Building Code. A proposal was made to change the code on greenhouses in the 10th edition of the Code that was dropped after opposition that included legislative leaders speaking out against the change. That proposed change would have had potentially cascading negative and expensive impacts on the nursery industry as there are as many as 15,000 greenhouses across Massachusetts. **MNLA seeks Legislative support to maintain the current status.**
- 4. *HB3998 – An Act Relative to Promoting Native Plantings for Stormwater Management, Pollinator Support and Climate Resilience***: Creates a statewide program within the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to plant and maintain native flowering plants, grasses, and shrubs along state highways and public lands. The program incorporates green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales to reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, enhance pollinator habitat, build soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce mowing and pesticide use. The bill also establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing Native Planting Fund—supported by appropriations, grants, interest, and a native pollinator-themed vanity license plate through the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. **MNLA supports this bill.**
- 5. *SB2182 - An Act establishing May as Native Plant Month***: Requires the Governor to annually proclaim May as Native Plant Month to increase public awareness of native plant species, encourage community groups, schools, and citizens to engage in conservation, restoration, and appreciation activities, and recommend appropriate observance. **MNLA supports this bill.**
- 6. *Local Control of Pesticides/Nutrients***: Several municipalities seek approval to regulate the application of pesticides or nutrients. Municipalities do not have the resident expertise to manage these applications, unlike the staff (e.g., toxicologists, chemists) of MDAR, the state Pesticide Board, UMass, who clearly do. Having a town-by-town matrix of regulations would be cumbersome and inefficient for our members to manage, particularly those whose businesses span town lines. **Regulation of pesticides and fertilizers should remain within state control.**
- 7. *Hunting laws***: We strongly recommend that the legislature consider a change in the deer hunting laws to allow Sunday hunting and set a setback from residential property for bow hunting to 250 feet. The deer population is in some places double the recommended herd limit and presents a danger to the success of the nursery and landscape industry through significant product destruction and a public health risk to our workers, many of whom have been exposed to and suffered from tick bites causing serious illness. Mass Wildlife has recently concluded a listening tour to secure feedback on such changes and the support was overwhelming. **MNLA strongly supports these changes.**