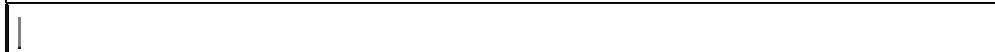
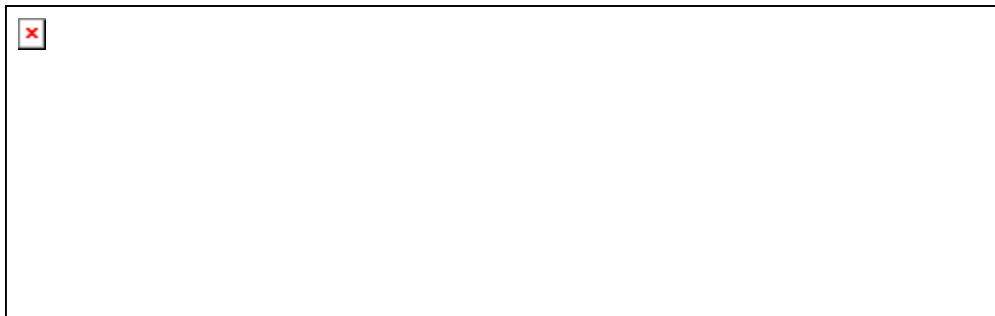


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Cheers to Sunnier Days

Summer is officially here, at least according to the calendar. My friend Oonagh says we're having an "Irish Summer" - with all this cool and wet weather, everything is as green as ever. Whenever I'm tempted to complain about the lack of sunshine, I try to remember that our lawns, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs

love this weather. And at least I don't have to bother watering the new shrubs and perennials I planted in our yard last month.

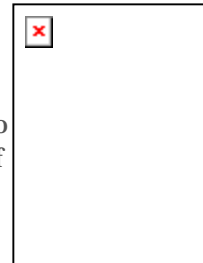
Seems like every time the clouds briefly part, there's a chorus of lawn mowers trying to keep up with the rapidly growing grass. If you're one of them, do yourself, your lawn, and the environment a favor and take a peek at the [Mowing Chapter](#) of the Greenscapes Guide for a few helpful hints!

Sunnier days are around the corner!

[Wendy Garpow](#), Editor

Tip of the Month: Leave Grass Clippings on Your Lawn

Grass clippings are a free and easy way to provide the equivalent of one regular fertilizer application each year. The grass clippings break down quickly, providing nitrogen and organic matter to the soil. It won't cause thatch and it's easy to do - just leave them behind and they'll disappear in a couple of days! For more helpful information about mowing, see the [Mowing Chapter](#) of the Greenscapes Guide.



Summer Yard Care Calendar

Here's a handy checklist to keep your Greenscape looking great through the summer! Follow the links to learn more about each recommendation. To see what's in store in the coming months, see the complete Greenscapes Lawn Care Calendar.

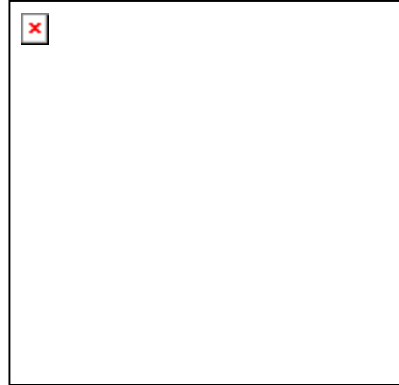
- Water lawn if the [Walk Test](#) shows your lawn is thirsty, but only if no [watering restrictions](#) in effect.
- Redo [Shovel Test](#) around July 4th & mid-August
- Conduct [Thumb Test](#) and sharpen mower blade at least every 10 hours of mowing
- Leave clippings on the lawn for [free fertilizer](#)
- [Treat weeds organically](#) or pull them by hand
- Aerate and water [compost pile](#)



Native Plant of the Month: Pink Charm Mountain Laurel

One of our best loved native shrubs, [Pink Charm Mountain Laurel \(*Dalmania latifolia* 'Pink Charm'\)](#) is a hardy broadleaf evergreen that blooms in late spring & early summer. 'Pink Charm' has dark red-pink buds that open to rich pink flowers with a narrow dark pink band inside the flower near the base. It sets flower buds well, even at a young age. Benefits include:

- Large showy flower clusters
- Lustrous evergreen foliage
- Nectar source for pollinators
- Year round protective cover for wildlife



This monthly feature of the Greenscapes E-News highlights a native plant that is particularly beautiful during this month and is also available at many of our [Partner Garden Centers](#). Consider adding this and other native plants to your Greenscape! This information is brought to you by [American Beauties](#), the native plant resource for the 2009 Greenscapes Massachusetts Program.

Inaugural Green Gardening Expo a Success!

We thank the many visitors, volunteers, exhibitors, and donors who helped make the first annual [Gardening Green Expo](#) a tremendous success.

Last month, an estimated

600 visitors came to the Cushing Center in Norwell to celebrate "all things Greenscapes". This free event raised awareness about Greenscaping-related practices, services, plants and products -- and also raised funds to help support the program and the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (our Coalition partner on the south shore). Visitors enjoyed nearly three dozen exhibits, ten workshops and presentations, a native plant exhibit and sale, kids activities, and refreshments. We're planning a bigger and better Expo in 2010, and hope to have multiple Expos in other regions! Contact [Debbie Cook at NSRWA](#) if you'd like to exhibit, volunteer, donate, or make a suggestion for the South Shore Expo, or [Wendy Garpow](#) if you're interested in an Expo in another region!



NEW! Greenscapes Online Store

Looking for products to help you Greenscape? Check out the new [Greenscapes Online Store](#) where you can purchase products like drought tolerant grass seed and programmable sprinkler timers. You can also get free Greenscapes items like lawn signs and workshop DVDs. Soon we'll be adding exciting items like compost tea and rainbarrels, and more. Purchases from the [Greenscapes Online Store](#) will help you have a beautiful yard that protects our water, AND it

will help support the outreach efforts of the Greenscapes program!

Welcome to Our 2009 Underwriters

We are honored to welcome many new corporate Underwriters to the Greenscapes family tree! Generous donations from Greenscapes Underwriters allow us to improve and expand the scope of educational programming, and further promote the Greenscapes message. We greatly appreciate these companies and organizations that have contributed at least \$2000 in support of the program:

- [Agresource, Inc](#)
- [American Beauties Native Plants](#)
- [Bay State Aquascapes at Kingston Nurseries](#)
- [Great American Rain Barrel](#)
- [Greenscapes Lawn & Garden Services](#)
- [Kennedy's Country Gardens](#)
- [New England Rain Barrel](#)
- [Pavers by Ideal](#)
- [Smart Watering Company](#)

For more information about Greenscapes Underwriters, see <http://www.greencscapes.org/Underwriters>

Upcoming Event: NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course

NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course

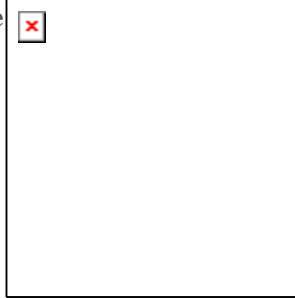
Friday, August 7, 2009

UMass Amherst from 8 a.m to 5 p.m

This 5th annual, day-long intensive course covers all aspects of organic turfgrass and lawn management from why organic, soil health and cultural practices to pest/disease management, soil amendments and client relations. New this year - Water Management and Conservation! Course takes place during the 35th annual NOFA Summer Conference. \$150 first person from firm/town; \$125 each additional person. Registrants for the Sat/Sun conference receive \$30 discount on combined registration fees. To register online or for more info visit www.nofasummerconference.org or www.organiclandcare.net. Call Kathy Litchfield, coordinator, at (413) 773-3830 or kathy@nofamass.org.

Need Some Help With Your Greenscape?

Like the idea of Greenscaping but not quite sure where to start in your own backyard? Or maybe you are a seasoned Greenscaper and would like some specific recommendations and expertise to help guide your efforts. Treat yourself and your yard to a Greenscapes Landscape Consultation!



Register now for a 60-minute private landscape consultation at your home or business to learn how you can save time, money and water by implementing Greenscapes practices. A Greenscapes Advisor will conduct a site inspection, soil sample and professional analysis, and review of your existing maintenance practices. After the site visit, you will receive a written report with a summary of your soil results, and customized recommendations for a beautiful, healthy yard.

The 60-minute consultations (including soil test and report) start at \$175. See the links below for an Advisor in your area:

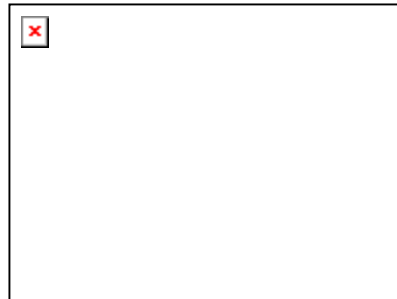
[North Shore](#)

[South Shore](#)

[Connecticut River Watershed](#) (Western MA)

Greenscapes Garden at Middle School Wins Award!

The Greenscapes North Shore program and [Salem Sound Coastwatch](#) have been working with the Holton Richmond Middle School, Danvers Garden Club, Town of Danvers, and other partners to create a Greenscapes Garden. This demonstration garden graces school grounds while educating students and the public about native plants and other Greenscaping practices. This Greenscapes



Garden is a [wildlife habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation](#), and has recently received an award from the National Garden Club. Northeast Nursery in Peabody (a [Greenscapes partner garden center](#)) generously donated over forty American Beauties native plants and numerous seedlings to enhance the garden. [See webpage for complete information](#) about this exciting project.

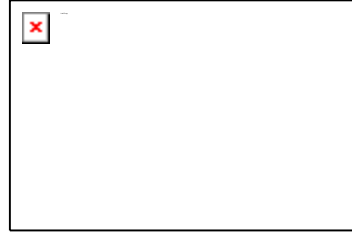
Greenscapes in South Shore Schools

The Greenscapes South Shore program, led by the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, will be taking the entire 4th grade of Cohasset schools on a field trip designed to show kids where their water comes from and where it goes. They'll be touring Cohasset's reservoir, water treatment plant (with large raingarden), sewage treatment plant and outfall site. Each field trip will be preceded by a one-hour classroom orientation specifically about their town's water system by [Dr. Sara Grady](#), NSRWA/Mass Bays Program's watershed ecologist. The NSRWA will do these field trips in all Greenscapes partner communities on the South Shore, and Hull will be the next town to have a field

trip! For more information, contact [Debbie Cook](#) at NSRWA.

About Greenscapes Massachusetts

The 2009 Greenscapes Massachusetts program is a multi-partner outreach effort focusing on water conservation and protection. The program is sponsored by the [Greenscapes Massachusetts Coalition](#) and many [Community Partners](#), [Grantors](#), [Underwriters](#), and many other donors and volunteers. Partnering organizations include the [Massachusetts Bay Estuary Association](#), [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#), [Eight Towns & the Bay Committee](#), [Salem Sound Coastwatch](#), [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#), and the [Pioneer Valley Planning Commission](#). For more information [about us](#), see [Greenscapes.org](#).



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