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» **Celebrate Earth Day!**

The grass is greening, trees are budding, flowers are blooming, the sun is (at least sometimes) warm and shining... spring is finally here!

How fitting that this beautiful season also when we celebrate [Earth Day](#) -- a time to celebrate the progress we have made in repairing our environment and reflect on the work that still needs to be done. Almost 500 million people in over 180 countries around the world celebrate Earth Day every year.

Let us help you celebrate Earth Day in your own backyard! The Greenscapes Massachusetts program is dedicated to inspiring you with new ideas, suggestions, and resources so you can have a beautiful yard that protects our water. Visit our [website](#), attend one of our [events](#) like the [Green Gardening Expo on May 2](#), enjoy a copy of our new pocket-sized [Yard Care Calendar](#)... let us share with you the many great reasons and ways to Greenscape.

Happy Spring!
[Wendy Garpow](#), Editor

» **Couldn't Read the Last Issue? Check Out the Archives!**

We regret that we had some technical difficulties with our last issue and some of our readers were unable to enjoy last month's edition, despite three delivery attempts! It is now [posted online in our e-news archives](#) for your reading pleasure. We greatly appreciate the patience and assistance of our readers as we resolved the problem.

2009-2010 Yard Care Calendar

The 2009-2010 Yard Care Calendar is a pocket guide to creating a Greenscape in your own yard. It's full of easy, timely tips and beautiful images to inform and inspire you!

Want a copy? There are 3 ways to get one!

1. Download. [Download](#) a complete copy now!
(requires Adobe Reader)

2. Pick up. Get a copy at one of our partnering organizations ([contact](#) the Coalition partner nearest you), or there may be copies at the Town Halls and public libraries of our [partner communities](#).

3. Request. [Contact](#) the Coalition partner nearest you and we'll send you one.



Upcoming Events

Check out these events and more by visiting our Greenscapes [event webpage!](#)
We're posting new events all the time.

Earth Week at [Kennedy's](#)

Saturday April 25 and Sunday April 26

[85 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy \(Rte. 3A\), Scituate, MA](#)

- Saturday April 25 at 10:00 am: Pruning Simplified by Nick Vallas from Bartlett Tree Experts
- Saturday April 25 at 3:00 pm: Creating & Maintaining an Organic Vegetable Gardening by John Belber of Holly Hill Farm
- Sunday April 26 at 11:00 am: Earth Friendly Lawn Care with Chris Kennedy, MCH
- Sunday April 26 at 2:00 pm Earth Jam in the display gardens, featuring The Brothers Duo

[Gardening Green Expo and Plant Sale](#)

Saturday May 2

10 am to 3 pm

at the Cushing Center,

[673 Main Street in Norwell](#)

Join us for a Greenscapes celebration! Choose from a huge selection of American Beauties native plants and special packages for creating your own Bird Garden, Butterfly Garden, Shade Garden, and Rain Garden! Get free gift certificates and a one-year guarantee with your tax deductible* plant purchase. Enjoy interactive exhibits and presentations about low maintenance plants, landscape design, rainwater harvesting, drought-tolerant lawns, porous pavers, and SO much more. This first annual Expo is a great chance to learn new Greenscapes ideas and techniques, and purchase Greenscapes products for your own yard, such as native plants and rain barrels. ***35% of your plant**



purchase will support the Greenscapes program and NSRWA. Visit the [Expo website](#) for more information.

Tip of the Month: Overseed Your Lawn

Here's one of the best things you can do NOW for a great lawn all season long! See our website for [more yard care tips for early/mid spring](#).



Overseeding simply means spreading grass seed over your existing lawn - it's a small investment of effort now for a beautiful lawn all season. It's quick, easy, and inexpensive, and best of all, it's one of the very best ways to control weeds.

Spring's cooler temps and wetter weather make it the perfect time to overseed - just follow these five steps:

Buy. Regardless of what type of lawn you inherited when you moved in, now is your chance to choose the best seed for a great looking lawn. Choose a drought-tolerant variety that has a high percentage of **turf-type tall fescues**. Compare labels and buy the blend with the highest percentage purity and germination ratings.

A great low-maintenance grass seed to try is [Pearl's Premium Grass Seed](#), sold online by one of our Greenscapes Partners (proceeds support the Greenscapes program). Other great grass seed blends are produced by the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, and are carried by several [Greenscapes partner garden centers](#).

Rake. Give your lawn a good raking to get rid of the dead grass. This will help the new seeds to grow and allow the air, sunlight and rainwater to give your existing lawn new life. This is the hardest part -- but it's good exercise and you can even recycle the old grass in your [compost bin or pile](#).

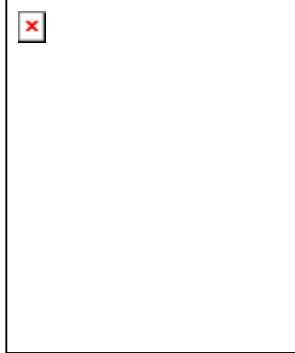
Spread. Evenly distribute the grass seeds using a mechanical spreader. Set it at a light setting and go over your lawn several times for the best coverage. Some people find this part fun and very satisfying.

Water. Give the new seeds a good drink of water to get them started. The seedlings will need to stay moist for a couple of weeks or they will die. Usually in the spring, Mother Nature will take care of this, but if not, give the overseeded areas of your lawn a quick drink every few days.

Repeat. Overseed annually in the spring and fall for best results.

Native Plant of the Month: Little Lanterns Columbine

This is a new monthly feature where we will highlight a native plant that is particularly beautiful during this month and usually 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.



Little Lanterns Columbine (Aquilegia Canadensis 'Little Lanterns')

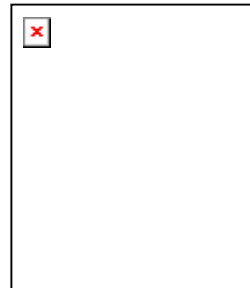
is a compact columbine that only grows 10" tall. Deep red and yellow nodding flowers top blue-green foliage for many weeks in spring. This is a good choice for shade gardens, woodland gardens, rock gardens and naturalized areas. Benefits include:

- Attracts butterflies, bumblebees and hummingbirds
- One of the earliest wildflowers to bloom; 8 + weeks of bloom
- Thrives in sun or shade; will self sow and naturalize
- Great for pine shade
- Deer resistant
- Resists leaf miner

Want to add this or other native plants to your yard?

Many Greenscapes [partner nurseries](#) carry native plants, including the [American Beauties](#) brand. Help support Greenscapes Massachusetts by buying this and other native plants through our [plant sale fundraiser!](#)

For more information about this plant, including planting information and fun native trivia, see the [American Beauties website](#).



Volunteers Needed for Green Gardening Expo

WE NEED YOUR HELP to make the first annual [Gardening Green Expo](#) the best it can be!

No experience or special skills necessary, just a smiling face and willingness to help. Volunteers are needed to help with greeting visitors, kid's activities, taking plant orders, checking out customers, loading cars.. you name it!

Volunteer shifts are from 9:30-12:30 and 12:30-3:30. Please [contact Wendy](#) to sign up for a shift (or two)!

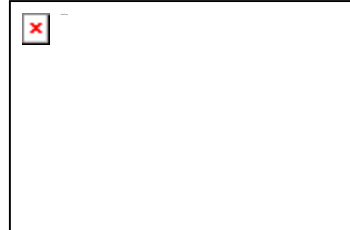
We also wish to borrow the following items:

- walkie-talkies
- wheelbarrows
- wagons
- folding tables and chairs

THANK YOU for your help!

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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