



Where Can I Buy Bee-Friendly Plants?

The food we eat depends on bees to pollinate the plants – and bees in turn depend on flowers for their food. Bees are especially threatened by a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids. When these systemic insecticides are applied they persist in all the tissues of the treated plants, including nectar and pollen. You can help by planting only flowers that have not been treated with neonics.

Seedling and Plant Sales

ReVision Urban Farm, 38 Fabyan Street, Boston, revisionfarmseedlings.square.site. Seedling Sale with Pre-orders, Pickup by May 6, 2023. Vegetables, herbs, annuals.

City Natives Plant Sale, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan, trustees.org. Seedling Sale with Pre-orders, Pickup in Mattapan through May 9, 2023. Walk-in shopping welcome May 25, 2023. 9am to 3pm. Vegetables, herbs, annuals, perennials. All purchases benefit 56 community gardens in Boston..

Lexington Community Farm, 52 Lowell Street, Lexington, lexfarm.org. Seedling Sale with Pre-orders, Pickup, and Self-Serve starting in May, 2023. Vegetables, herbs, annuals. Subscribe to newsletter for details.

Mass. Audubon Habitat, 10 Juniper Road, Belmont, massaudubon.org/habitat. Plant Sale and Goat Gala May 6, 2023. 9am to 1pm. Vegetables, herbs, annuals.

Waltham Fields Community Farm, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham. communityfarms.org. Seedling sale May 6 9am to 3pm; and May 7, 9am to 1pm, 2023. Vegetables, herbs, annuals.

Gore Place, 52 Gore Street, Waltham. goreplace.org. Farmer Scott's Heirloom Tomato Plant sale May 12, 2023. 9am to 3pm. Organic vegetables, herbs and annual flowers.

Groundwork Somerville, 138 South Street, Somerville. groundworksomerville.org. Seedling Sale, May 13, 2023. 11am to 1pm. Seedlings sourced from ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester.

Somerville Garden Club, 331 Summer Street, Somerville. somervillegardenclub.org. Plant Sale, May 14, 2023. 11am to 2pm. House plants, perennials, annuals, dried flowers, and white elephant gardening items, donated and locally grown by Somerville Garden Club members.

Green Newton Native Plant Sale, Kennard Park, 246 Dudley Road, Newton Center. greennewton.org. Native Plant Sale, May 14, 2023. 1pm to 5pm. Meadow perennials from Meadowscaaping for Biodiversity.

Newton Community Farms, 303 Nahanton St., Newton Centre. newtoncommunityfarm.org. Seedling sale May 20 and 21, 2023. Noon to 3pm. Vegetables, herbs, annual flowers.

Grow Native, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham. grownativemass.org. Plant sale June 2 and 3, 2023: 9am to 2:30pm. Native perennials, ferns, grasses, and shrubs. Must pre-register to shop.

Native Plant Nurseries

Blue Stem Natives, 376 Washington St., Norwell. bluestemnatives.com. Native plants for the New England region.

Garden in the Woods, New England Wildflower Society, 180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham. newenglandwild.org. Garden shop opens beginning April 15. Native wild flowering plants. Pollinator kits.

Garden Centers Committed to Healthy Bees

Note: A common supplier in our area is Cavicchio Nurseries. Plants labeled “Grown by Cavicchio” are untreated. If plants are labeled “Grown for Cavicchio” or simply “Cavicchio”, we cannot be sure whether they were treated.

Underwood Greenhouses, 20 School Street, Belmont. underwoodgreenhouses.weebly.com Opens beginning Mother's Day weekend. Locally-grown plants from 7 a.m. to dusk. Payment by honors system.

Wilson Farm, 10 Pleasant Street, Lexington: Plants grown by the farm are untreated – ask the grower to show you.

Pemberton Farms, 2225 Mass Ave, Cambridge: Does not sell plants treated with neonics.

Mahoney's, Several locations: Plants grown by the nursery are untreated – ask the grower to show you.

Allandale Farm, 259 Allandale Road, Brookline: Plants grown by the nursery are untreated – ask the grower.

Russell's Garden Center, 397 Boston Post Road, Wayland: Their vegetables are all organic, and they practice IPM.

Whole Foods, Several locations. Sells organic seeds and plants.

Garden Catalogs for untreated native plants

New England Wild Flower Society recommends sourcing your plants as close to your location as possible. The following are native plant growers who do not use neonicotinoids.

New England Wild Flower Society. www.newenglandwild.org Framingham, MA. (508)877-7630 . Plant finder tool. Order online, pickup at nursery.

Tripple Brook Farm. www.tripplebrookfarm.com Southampton, MA. (413)527-4626. Emphasizes native plants. Does not use neonics.

Prairie Moon.www.prairiemoon.com Winona, MN. (866)417-8156. Native plants. Searchable by categories, such as sun, shade, or pollinators.

Ernst Seeds.www.ernstseed.com Meadville, PA. (800)873-3321. Hundreds of species of native and naturalized seeds and live plant materials

Garden Catalogs for organic seeds and plants; non-GMO seeds, and untreated plants

High Mowing. www.highmowingseeds.com Wolcott, VT. (802)472-6174. 100% Organic seeds for vegetables, fruit, herbs, and flowers. Heirloom, open-pollinated seeds well suited to northern climates.

FedCo Seeds. www.fedcoseeds.com. Waterville, ME:(207) 426-0090. Founded as a cooperative company. They sell seeds, trees, bulbs, and Moose Tuber potatoes; both organic and conventional.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, www.johnnyseeds.com. Winslow, ME. (877)564-6697. Winslow, Maine. Organic as well as conventional seeds. Vegetables, flowers, herbs. Catalog includes varieties developed by Johnny's. Employee owned.

Pinetree Garden Seeds. www.superseeds.com New Gloucester, ME. (207)926-3400. Family owned company. All seeds are GMO free. 2015 catalog has a “new organic line.” All seeds and plants listed alphabetically in one catalog.

Fruition Seed. www.fruitionseeds.com Naples, NY. (585)300-0699. Organic seed developed for the shorter growing season of the Northeast. Every packet contains instructions for seed saving.

Hudson Valley Seed Library www.seedlibrary.org Accord, NY. (845)204-8769. Heirloom and open-pollinated seeds, many grown on their farm and through a regional seed-savers exchange.

Select Seeds. www.selectseeds.com Union, CT. (800)684-0395. Safe Seed Pledge: No GMOs or treated seed. Flowers: perennials and annuals, also herbs. Focus on fragrant flowers. New focus on native perennials.

Missouri Wildflower Nursery. mowildflowers.net Jefferson City, MO. (573)496-3492. Native seeds and plants. Wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, vines, groundcovers.

Seed Savers Exchange. www.seedsavers.org Decorah, IA. (563)382-5990. Open pollinated, non-hybrid heirloom seeds. Vegetables, herbs, potatoes, and flowers; also plants, transplants, and apple trees. Non-GMO.

Botanical Interests. botanicalinterests.com Broomfield, CO. (877)821-4340. Carries both USDA certified organic seed and conventionally produced untreated seed; also heirloom varieties. All seeds are non-GMO.

Seeds of Change. www.seedschange.com Rancho Dominguez, CA. (888)762-7333. Organically grown seeds, rare heirloom and traditional seed varieties.

Natural Gardening Company. www.naturalgardening.com Sonoma County, CA. (707)766-9303. The nation's oldest certified organic nursery. All organic seeds, plants and plant seedlings; vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

What about big-box stores?

Several chains pledged to stop selling products and plants containing neonicotinoids by 2019. BJ's sells no pesticides containing neonics. All their plants, except poinsettias and blueberries, are untreated. Lowes and True Value stores should have no neonic-containing products or plants. Home Depot should have no treated plants. If you find products or plants containing neonicotinoids, please bring it to the attention of management and ask when their pledge will be fulfilled. Finally, Ace Hardware has begun phasing out products containing neonics. Until all plants on sale are safe for bees, keep asking for plants free of neonics.

Certified organic products do not contain neonicotinoids. To check for neonics in non-organic products, make sure the ingredients do not include any of the following chemicals: Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam, Acetamiprid, Dinotefuran, Nitenpyram, or Thiacloprid.

Friends of Bees was founded in 2014 by Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment to educate about and advocate for bees and other pollinators. For more information, please visit watertowncitizens.org.