

REPORT OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The role of Plymouth County Cooperative Extension is to deliver research-based information to Plymouth County residents through non-formal methods. The Plymouth County Extension staff work in concert with UMass Amherst Faculty and Extension staff on behalf of Plymouth County residents, UMass Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture, to provide valuable information in Extension's four major program areas: Agriculture and Landscape; 4-H Youth and Family Development; Nutrition Education; and Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation. The Extension System is supported by County, Federal and State funds, and operates under Federal and State laws and agreements. Local citizens, appointed by the Plymouth County Commissioners, serve as Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Trustees, directing the overall program. Volunteer advisory groups work with Extension staff on developing programs.

Cooperative Extension resources and programs for Plymouth County residents include: sustainable garden lectures, fruit pruning demonstrations; research, information and educational programs on pests like the winter moth caterpillar; pesticide applicator training & licensing exams; the annual UMass Extension Garden Calendar; landscape and horticultural training and resources for municipal employees and green industry professionals; 4-H Science and Technology workshops; accredited overnight 4-H summer camps; 4-H animal science summer day workshops; 4-H Life Skills Training. New research findings are translated into practical applications and shared with residents and communities through workshops, conferences, field demonstrations, radio and television, local libraries, technical assistance, and newspaper articles. Publications such as newsletters, booklets, and fact sheets bring information directly to those who need it. Additional information is delivered through office visits, phone calls, and UMass-Amherst Extension web access www.umassextension.org.

The Plymouth County Extension office is located at 266 High St., P.O. Box 658, Hanson MA 02341 (781-293-3541; 781-447-5946) plyctyext@mindspring.com. Regional Extension programs are often conducted in Southeastern Massachusetts.

UMass Extension also operates the Cranberry Experiment Research Station, located in Wareham and the Nutrition Education Program, located in Brockton.

Members of the Plymouth County Staff:

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Molly Vollmer, 4-H Youth and Family Development Program
Deborah C. Swanson, Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program
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