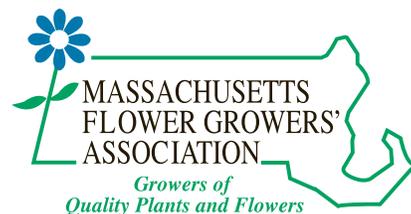


Get Growing!

The Massachusetts Flower Growers Association and Massachusetts Ag in the Classroom are pleased to provide you with this educational kit. It is a simple seed starting kit designed to show elementary age children the science and wonder of horticulture. Funding for this statewide program is provided by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).



The Massachusetts Flower Growers Association is a participant in a national program called "Plant Something." Our goal is to encourage everyone to enjoy the fun and beauty of gardening as a great activity with many benefits. We encourage students this Spring to take their families to a local flower grower who can share information with you about growing all types of flowers and plants!



Visit massflowergrowers.com to find your local grower/garden center.



Contained in the Kit

- 30 2-inch pots
- 30 seed starting Jiffy pellets
- 30+ seeds of sweet pea "Knee High" mix

Simple Instructions for Success

Step 1: Soak the Jiffy germination pellets in water in a 1- to 2-inch deep tray.

Place the dry pellets into the tray and add water. They will expand to about 1 ½ inches. They should be fully moist. Add more water, if needed, to expand fully.

Step 2: Have the children mark the pot with a permanent marker or use an address label or sticker. They can write their name on the pot or label.

Step 3: Place the pellet in the pot. Make sure the open end of pellet is on top.

Step 4: Place two seeds in the pellet and push them down slightly so the growing media covers the seeds. Make sure the seed is covered by the growing media.

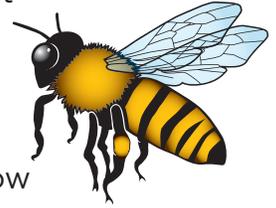
Step 5: Put all the seeded pots into a container where just enough water can be added to the bottom, and keep the pellets moist but not soaking wet. It is helpful to use a piece of plastic wrap over the container to retain moisture. Place the container in a location that stays between 65–70° F. A sunny window sill can work, or use a grow light. At these temperatures and moist conditions the seed will germinate in approximately 14 days. They can be grown in these pellets for some time, or they can be planted into a bigger pot, using potting soil when the roots of the seedling start to show on the side of the pellets.



Other Classroom Activities

1 If you are looking for another easy class activity featuring honeybees, visit www.mass.gov and search “Queen Bee Contest.” MDAR is inviting classrooms across the state to enter the “Name The Queen Bees Contest.” The contest deadline is April 2, 2018.

This is an opportunity to learn more how honeybees do the important work of pollinating flowers and trees. Two classes will be selected to visit with a live real queen bee and hive. Video links and posts will also be provided to see how bees live in their hives around the state. If you have questions, please contact Kim Skyrms at kim.skyrms@state.ma.us.



2 Massachusetts Ag in the Classroom (www.aginclassroom.org) can provide more options for your classroom, from lesson plans incorporating crops grown in Massachusetts to mini grants for activities and school gardens. The association is always looking to help educators incorporate “ag in the classroom.” For more information, contact massaginclassroom@gmail.com.

Important: Please fill out the short questionnaire below and return it to us.

After the project ends, please provide us with the following information by June 1, 2018:

Name of teacher _____

Name of school _____

1. How many children did you have participating using this kit? _____
2. Approximate age range of the children? _____ or grade level _____
3. How many of the children participating with this project have gone to buy plants with their parents or guardians? _____
4. How many children currently have plants in their homes and/or garden with their some member of their family or guardians? _____
5. For how many children will this be the first time growing a plant? _____
6. Any other feedback:

Please send your questionnaire back via the following methods.

Visit www.aginclassroom.org and fill out the online form.

Or

Mail to Massachusetts Ag in the Classroom
249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough MA 01752