

Why buy local flowers?

There are many reasons to purchase local flowers as opposed to imported flowers. Here are some of the main benefits:

Fewer emissions. Imported flowers travel thousands of miles to reach you, via an energy-intensive cold chain of refrigerated airplane holds, buses and boats.



Fewer pesticides. The global cut flower industry is under pressure to produce perfect blossoms and is not constrained by international pesticide residue limits, like food producers are. High pesticide use on cut flower operations has been shown to negatively impact workers, local communities and local ecosystems²- and leads to high residue levels on imported flowers once they reach their destination.³ Because local flower farms grow on a much smaller scale, they don't need to be as reliant on pesticides. When you buy flowers from a farm near you, you can purchase flowers grown using IPM, organic or no-spray practices.



Better working conditions for farmers. Imported flowers often use poor labor practices, including long work hours, low pay, harassment, and exposure to pesticides.⁴ Local flowers are grown on smaller farms with better labor practices.



Dollars back into your local economy and local businesses. Keep your dollars close-by, supporting good jobs in your community.



More interesting flowers. Because they don't need to be shipped thousands of miles, local flower farmers often grow more unusual, delicate and seasonal flowers!



Where can I buy local flowers?

- **Farmers markets and farm stands**



- **CSAs:** flower-only, or a vegetable CSA that includes flowers

- **Some florists** – ask where they source their flowers!



- **Online** – this is especially useful for finding local flowers for events (weddings, etc.). There are directories like the website *Local Flowers* that can help your search.



- **Flower collectives**, like the Connecticut Flower Collective, Maine Flower Collective and Hudson Valley Flower Collective.

Learn more about growing cut flowers!

UMass Vegetable Extension
[Team website](#)

Fact sheets and newsletter articles on cut flowers:



UMass Vegetable Extension
[YouTube channel](#)

Recordings from past cut flower workshops:



Works Cited

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MA Local Cut Flower Guide

Flowers have long been used to express love, sympathy and joy. In the US, we import around \$1.5 billion in cut flowers (e.g. flowers used in arrangements and bouquets) each year, mostly from Colombia and Ecuador.¹ However, importing flowers has downsides, including greenhouse gases, copious pesticides and poor working conditions. Local flowers are healthier for our planet, better for our local economy - and beautifully diverse!

This guide provides information about why and how to buy local flowers in Massachusetts!



Seasonal bloom calendar

One of the joys of local flowers is that they are so diverse and seasonal! Here is a selection of the many flowers that bloom throughout the year on MA farms. Many of these flowers (like tulips, ranunculus, dahlias and zinnias) come in dozens of different varieties and colors. Note that bloom times vary based on conditions, and many flowers bloom for extended periods of time, so this chart is only designed to give you an approximate idea of what might be in season when. Ask your local farmer to find out what they grow!

Spring/Early Summer



Daffodils



Tulips



Ranunculus



Orlaya



Lilacs



Foxglove



Daisies



Bachelors Buttons



Sweet Peas



Honeywort



Lily of the Valley



Agrostemma



Love-in-a-mist

Mid-Summer



Peonies



Ninebark



Snapdragons



Larkspur



Black-eyed Susans



Cosmos



Floss Flowers



Strawflowers



Yarrow



Statice



Pincushion Flowers

Late Summer/Autumn



Ammi



Zinnias



Celosia



Lisianthus



Dahlias



Phlox



Marigolds



Globe Amaranth



Sunflowers



Beautyberry



Mums