

**PLYMOUTH COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**

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 on behalf of Plymouth County residents, in concert with UMass Amherst faculty and Extension staff, and the United States Department of Agriculture, to provide valuable information in the program areas of 'Agriculture and Landscape' and '4-H Youth and Family Development'. 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.

The Plymouth County Extension 4-H Youth and Family Development Program's goal is to prepare youth, ages 5 to 19, to become independent and contributing members of society. This is accomplished by training and supporting adults with the resources to promote positive, long-term youth development in their communities. 4-H is a major youth development organization in Plymouth County and is committed to providing educational programming based on the needs and interests of local families. 4-H provides educational programming through two main delivery methods: 4-H Project clubs and 4-H Science school enrichment programs

The Plymouth County Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program is a local resource for Plymouth County residents, in the areas of insect, plant disease and plant problem diagnostics. Plymouth County Extension is also part of the UMass Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team that works to educate and provide training and resources to Green Industry professionals and municipal employees resulting in an increased awareness to reduce public exposure to pesticides, protect the public water supply and to transfer that knowledge to Plymouth County residents and Green Industry Professionals.

2008 Cooperative Extension resources and programs for Plymouth County residents include: annual sustainable gardening lectures, annual fruit pruning demonstration; ornamental tree pruning lecture, 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 in the areas of embryology and plant science; accredited overnight 4-H summer camps; 4-H animal science summer day-workshops; 4-H Life Skills Training, 4-H Community Service Projects, 4-H Public Speaking Training, 4-H Babysitting Program and 4-H partnerships with local farms and agricultural enterprises. New research findings are translated into practical applications and shared with residents and communities through workshops, conferences, office visits, phone calls, field demonstrations, radio, 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 UMass-Amherst Extension web access www.umassextension.org.

Members of the Plymouth County Extension Staff:

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