

Plant Swap FAQ

Friends of the Red Barn Plant Swap

Saturday, June 4th

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Participating swappers must register starting at 9 – 10 am and throughout the event

Red Barn

Shrewsbury Street, corner Wachusett Street

Holden, Massachusetts

What is a plant swap?

It is a gathering of people who love plants and love to garden. Each brings plants, seedlings, seeds, cuttings and other garden-related items to swap with other gardeners.

We encourage each swapper to bring a good variety of plants and items...

How does the Red Barn Plant Swap work?

Starting at 9:00 am, participants may begin arriving at the Red Barn, 52 Shrewsbury Street, Holden, MA. Swappers may register any time between 9:00 and 12 Noon but are encouraged to come early and register between 9 and 10 am.

- Participants register as "swappers."
- Each "swapper" will set up a table to display his/her swap items.
- Swapping will begin at 10 AM with the starting whistle.

Everyone is asked to swap freely. The idea is to mix it up and come home with many different plants and items, as well as to leave with "New to you" items, maybe some advice, and new gardening friends!

Please see our Etiquette guidelines for more information...

Who can come?

Anyone with a passion for plants and gardening! We will register swappers between 9 and 10 AM, with the Swap starting just after 10! Listen for the starting whistle!!

What should I bring?

Bring a table and chair, also sun block, bug spray, and even a small wagon if handy!

Bring whatever plants, gardening tools, or other garden-related items you would like to swap.

Drinks will be available for purchase... so a few dollars and a snack may be good to bring also!

What are your etiquette guidelines?

When swappers get plants, they need somewhere to put them in a safe place, so no one else will take them.

- Always deal person to person with the swapper before taking a plant from a table.
- It is good etiquette to ASK each swapper if it is OK to take a certain plant from the table and whether he/she accepts your swap.
- DO NOT take any plants under tables or on garden carts or wagons.
DO NOT take any items marked NFS (not for sale)... These plants and items are off limits.
- There will be a designated area for a plant "orphanage," where plants are free for the taking – no need to make an arrangement with a swapper.

These will be extra plants that swappers will bring to give away or leave behind.

Can you give me some suggestions on how I should prepare the plants before the swap and how to mark my plants for identification?

Bring anything that you think someone would want.

For rooted plants:

Dig up rooted plants the morning of the plant swap.

Put them immediately in moist soil in old coffee cans, plastic pots, paper cups, or even plastic bags with moist soil over the roots.

For cuttings:

Take cuttings the morning of the swap and immediately put them in water.

Make sure the cuttings have at least two nodes on them.

Make a note of which end is the stem end (end closest to the mother plant).

For bulbs:

If you bring bulbs, corms, rhizomes, etc., make sure they are dried and cleaned of most garden soil. If you can't, just put them in paper bags so that they are easier to handle.

For seeds:

Seeds should be packaged in labeled envelopes.

For tools, books, pots, and other garden items:

Just make sure they are as clean as possible and marked well.

What are the guidelines for marking your plants?

It would be helpful to include other information about the plant or flower on the envelope, such as the Latin and/or common name, light requirements (sun-loving or shade), bloom color, bloom time (June or Sept.), drought tolerant, etc.

When marking your plants, you can use permanent ink on Popsicle sticks, plastic knives, forks, spoons, or anything else with which you can be creative!

Can I bring my children or my dog?

Yes, children and pets are allowed. However, there are some plants that are sharp and poisonous, and we do not want the children or pets getting hurt or poisoned, so be sure to keep a very close watch on them at all times!

What do I do with plants that I do not want to take back home?

We will have a designated area for orphaned plants that will be given a good home.

Should I bring a garden cart or wagon?

Bring a garden cart or wagon to carry your plants back and forth to your vehicle. You will be glad you did!

Should I bring a table and chair?

You will need a table and chair or a blanket and chair for your setup.

What if it rains?

This event is RAIN OR SHINE! We are die-hard gardeners. Check the weather... and bring an umbrella or cover of some kind for a rain event...

Does the plant swap cost any money to attend?

We ask for an entrance fee of \$5 per swapper at registration. All proceeds are to benefit the Friends of the Red Barn. Otherwise, NO MONEY IS TO BE EXCHANGED FOR ANY PLANTS!

We allow swapping or trading of plants or garden-related items only!

Is the plant swap open to the general public?

Yes. The general public is invited. However, everyone must bring gardening items to swap and pay an entrance fee in order to get into the plant swap. The money raised is all for a good cause!