



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Back Cove Takes Center Stage at the Portland Flower Show**

Stormwater runoff, containing pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals, is one of the leading sources of pollution to our lakes and coastal waters. Residents need to know that their lawn-care practices can affect these water bodies, even if they are not waterfront owners. But there are alternatives to chemically intensive lawn care. YardScaping educates homeowners on how to create a landscape that is low maintenance, attractive, and healthy for children, pets, and the environment. A partnership of groups dedicated to advancing ecological lawn care is launching a demonstration project along the footpath that borders Back Cove and Baxter Boulevard in Portland. Starting this spring, a series of trails, plantings, and demonstration lawns will showcase ecological yard care practices there.

The Back Cove project will be the centerpiece of an exhibit at the Portland Flower Show on March 7 to 11, 2007, at the Portland Company Marine Complex on the Portland waterfront. The YardScaping booth on the ground floor of the show is sponsored by the Maine Board of Pesticides Control and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to showcasing plans for the Back Cove Demonstration Site, the exhibit will offer ideas for buffer plantings, low-maintenance lawns, and native plants. Plus, visitors will have a chance to win some great tools for implementing their own YardScaping projects at home.

Gary Fish of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control is one of the people behind this innovative project. He will be at the YardScaping booth, along with other YardScaping volunteers, to answer questions on the project. Gary says there is another reason to stop by: "Visit the YardScaping Partnership booth and fill out a free raffle ticket for our drawing. You could win a beautiful scythe, a top-of-the-line garden cart, a gift certificate to one of the area's premier nurseries, or enough YardScaping grass seed mixture to plant a 5,000-square-foot lawn!"

*YardScaping hopes to inspire Maine people to create and maintain healthy landscapes through ecologically based practices that minimize reliance on water, fertilizer, and pesticides. The Maine YardScaping Partnership was formed out of the rising concern among statewide organizations and agencies over the possible pollution caused by yard care chemicals washing away into water bodies, as well as the risks of pesticide exposure to people, pets, and wildlife.*

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