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## Townsend takes to heart challenge to 'plant something'

By Anne O'Connor, Correspondent  
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TOWNSEND -- Townsend took the challenge from a state-wide taskforce to "plant something" to heart.

The whiskey barrels at the common were filled with wave petunias, New Guinea impatiens and double impatiens during a community event on May 17.

Commercial flower growers contributed the plants and Boy Scout Troop 81 planted them. McNabb Pharmacy will take responsibility for watering and maintaining the planters throughout the summer, Members of the Townsend Business Association sponsor the planters along the street.

The event was part of an initiative to get every municipality in the state to hold a private or public planting. Townsend Common, highly visible at the intersection of routes 13 and 119, benefited from the challenge issued by [plantsomethingma.org](http://plantsomethingma.org), a website dedicated to consumer gardening.

Planting protects the earth, said Jason Hutchins, of the Flower Hutch. Even a layer of grass helps by keeping more moisture in the ground.

Part of the mission of the website co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association and the Massachusetts Flower Grower Association, is to make gardening more consumer friendly.

"This is easy. It's not rocket science," he said.

Not only will planting something improve the land, it also makes a property look more attractive and increases its value, he said. If that isn't enough for an aspiring grower, it burns calories

Gardening can

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be fun, too. The Boy Scouts, under the supervision of adults, filled the planters.

"It seemed like the boys had a good time," Hutchins said.

Another mission of the website is to encourage people to buy local products, not only from farmers, but from the businesses that local farmers supply. The effect on the local economy will be positive, Hutchins said.

Seven members serve on the joint task for "plant something," Hutchins said. Two of the members, himself and Dana King, of King Farm, are in Townsend.

The region has a strong agricultural connection, he said, "It's really a way of life here in town." Former chicken coops dots the landscape, some are still in use. Local farm



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