

# plants

The Magazine  
for Northeast  
Gardeners

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## Hope from the Garden

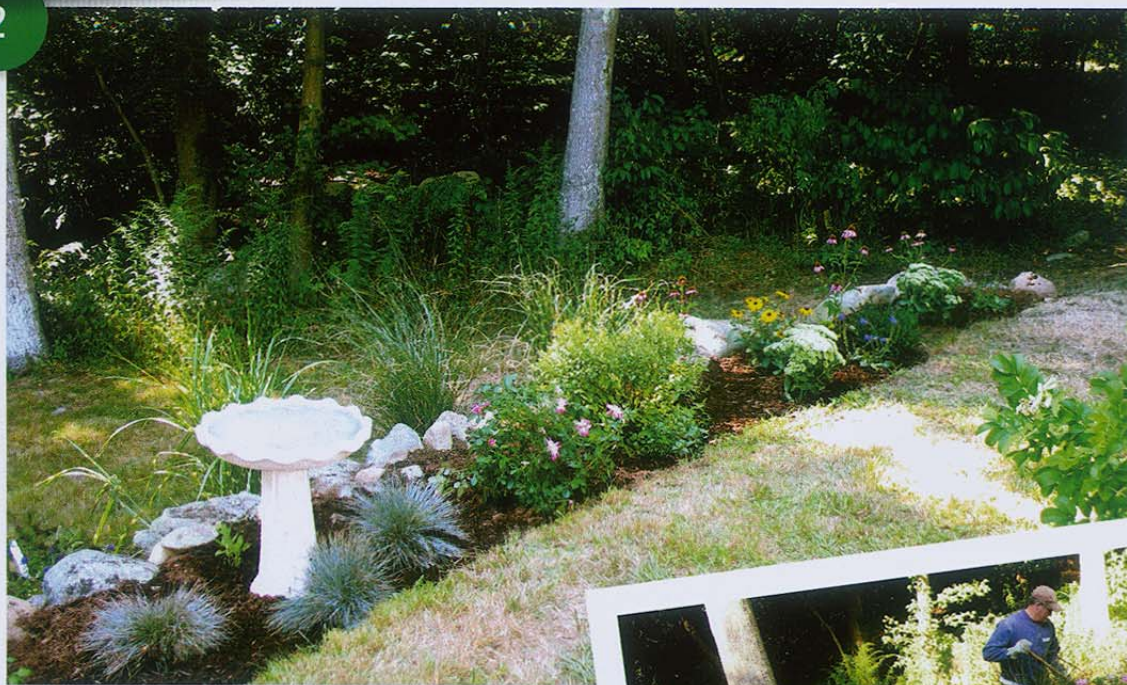
I STARTED HOPE IN BLOOM after I lost a close friend and fellow gardener to breast cancer. During her illness, her friends kept her garden going and her house filled with flowers. These gestures helped bolster her spirits.

Hope in Bloom is a nonprofit corporation that provides indoor and outdoor gardens free of charge at the homes of Massachusetts women and men undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Each garden is tailored to the recipient's lifestyle and gardening abilities. These gardens provide breast cancer patients with a beautiful haven to experience the calming effects of nature. They are places where those struggling with the emotional aspects and often harsh realities of breast cancer can find comfort.

My goal is to put smiles on the faces of other breast cancer patients going through a very difficult time.

— Roberta Dehman Hershon, West Newton, Mass.

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1) Hope in Bloom gardeners show off their handiwork at a home in Hingham, Mass. 2) The organization installed more than 20 gardens last year, including this woodland border in Scituate. 3) Volunteers prepare the Scituate site for its makeover.

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*EDITOR'S NOTE* — Hope in Bloom gardens can be requested online at [www.hopeinbloom.org](http://www.hopeinbloom.org) or by calling 617-467-3214. One of the organization's landscape architects or designers will arrange to visit the site and meet with the recipient to develop a plan. For indoor gardens, maintenance is the owner's responsibility. Volunteers tend outdoor gardens for the first season.