



NO MOW MAY



Our planet faces a pollinator and insect crisis. Scientists project that the world loses 2.5% of insect mass per year. Everyone can help reverse this trend by cutting the grass less often, postponing spring clean up until temperatures reach the 50s and growing a pollinator-friendly garden. No

Mow May offers homeowners a starting place to protect habitat for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and more. Start by increasing pollinator food sources by not mowing dandelions, clover and other wildflowers this May. End by installing a permanent pollinator garden full of native plants.

What is No Mow May?

No Mow May strives to protect pollinators by providing essential food sources in early spring. Participants simply avoid mowing their lawns until June 1st to increase pollinator abundance and species diversity.



Pollinator Facts



Plants provide pollinators food in the form of nectar and pollen. In return, pollinators facilitate plant reproduction by carrying the pollen on their bodies to other plants.



More than 350,000 species worldwide pollinate plants. Species that pollinate include bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats, flies, moths, beetles, wasps and more.



Honey bees, alone, pollinate more than 130 types of fruits and vegetables including cucumbers, carrots, apples, onions and pears. Pollinator loss would reduce food production and lead to food insecurity.



More than 80% of all flowering plants need pollinators to survive.



Most pollinating insects don't live in hives like honey bees. Many live in small holes in the ground and others burrow into dead wood.



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Four Easy Ways to participate in No Mow May

- 1. Postpone lawn-cutting until June 1:** Not many flowers establish in early spring when pollinators emerge from their winter nests searching for food. Early flowers like dandelions, clover and violets help fill this nutrition gap. Remember to check your local ordinances before participating.
- 2. Protect pollinator habitat:** Refrain from spring clean-up until temperatures exceed 50 degrees for at least five days consecutively. This protects native bees who nest in dead wood or the fallen stems and leaves of last year's plants.
- 3. Plant pollinator-friendly plants in your garden or yard:** Planting a diverse group of native plants and flowers can provide a sustainable food source for pollinators, especially if chosen for varying bloom times. Some great choices are bee balm, foxglove, and goldenrod.
- 4. Plant groupings of the same plant:** Pollinators love mass plantings of the same plant as well as dense plantings of different plants. They like abundant food sources close together.

Avoid The Following:



Don't use pesticides in your garden or yard. These chemicals kill or harm pollinators and their forage plants. Many commonly used lawn and garden products contain pesticides. For example, "weed and feed" lawn care products combine both pesticides and fertilizers. Be sure to check labels and only use pesticide-free products.



Don't pull all the weeds from your garden. The pollen in common lawn weeds such as dandelions and clover provide significant protein and other nutrients to pollinators. Consider letting the weeds bloom first before removing them.

