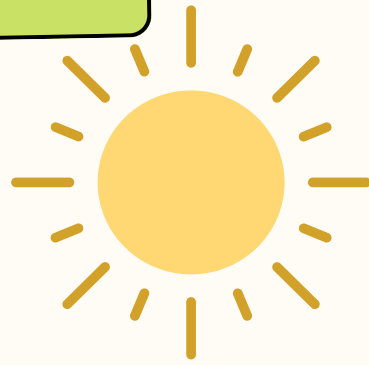




THE BUZZ ABOUT NO MOW MAY

**Q: MOW IN MAY?
A: YES YOU MAY!**



Conservationists and Horticulturists agree, it does not work!

“ Not mowing for the entire month of May can cause lawn maintenance and plant health problems in June. Flowering lawn plants such as clover, dandelion, and creeping charlie produce most of their blooms below 4 inches.
Doug Soldat, Turfgrass Professor, University of Wisconsin ”

“ No mow May continues to frustrate the heck out of me. Just letting your lawn go will not result in a lovely meadow that neighbors or wildlife will admire. If you're on an urban lot, chances are you won't be getting aster and indigo and prairie clover and coneflowers – they aren't in the seed bank because your house was not recently built on top of a remnant prairie.
Benjamin Vogt, Author, Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design ”

“ A month of long lawns filled with dandelions and other non-native weedy species just doesn't cut it. It's the ecological equivalent of opening a fast-food restaurant on every corner – for a short amount of time.
Sheila Colla and Lorraine Johnson, Authors, Rusty-Patched Bumblebee: Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators ”

HOW YOU CAN BE A HERO TO POLLINATORS IN YOUR OWN YARD:

- Regular mowing is an integral part of proper landscape care. Similar to pruning, mowing improves the health and durability of live material in the landscape.
- Raise the deck height to 4" for May. That height allows the mower to cut grass while leaving low flowering plants alone.
- Skip a week and use the mower once every 14 days.
- Regular mowing at a 3"-3.5" height helps eliminate weeds that have no benefit to pollinators, including: crabgrass, barnyard grass, thistle, garlic mustard, and others.
- Regular mowing at the right height slams the door on weeds that may require supplemental herbicides later in the season on yours or your neighbors' properties.
- Mowing protects humans and four-legged friends from ticks, mosquitoes, flies, voles, and mice.



BEE VISIBLE, LANDSCAPE AESTHETICS HAVE CHANGED!

Embrace a more natural appearance with varying heights of material.

Identify spots to reduce lawn area - this avoids a full scale approach that leads to neighbor complaints and village visits.

Be front and center! Pick a spot in the front yard to create your living sign that you promote pollinators. Use 12"-30" meadow plants with a purposeful seed bank.

Lean on the advice of professionals in landscaping and lawn care to create a look that creates some buzz.

**MAY IS WHEN OUR LANDSCAPES COME OUT TO PLAY.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE RICHER ENVIRONMENTS
FOR PLANTS, POLLINATORS, AND PEOPLE.**

