

No Mow May is a movement to allow lawn weeds, such as white clover, dandelions, and violets to bloom to serve as early forage for native bees as they first emerge from hibernation. Research in both the UK and the US, particularly midwestern states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois has found that simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. A recent study from Lawrence University in Wisconsin found that No Mow May lawns had five times the number of bees and three times the bee species than did mown parks. This is particularly important as all bee species are at risk, and native bee species are stressed.

Native bees are considered the most important group of pollinators in terms of transferring pollen from flower to flower, but pollinators also include butterflies, moths, honeybees, (which originated in Europe vs native) and other insects. Native bees pollinate apples, cherries and blueberries more effectively than honeybees because they will forage over a longer period of time during the day, and will visit flowers in wet or cold conditions, when honeybees tend to stay in the hive. One could say that like other Vermont natives, bees work harder and longer than bees that “come from away”.

To help sustain native bees, one can participate in No Mow May- its easy! All you need to do is volunteer to NOT mow all or part of your lawn from May 1 – May 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to understand the effect of not mowing, we would like to collect information from participants, specifically, what did your lawn look like at the start and the end and how much area dedicated to not be mown. To register, email [conservation@danvillevt.gov](mailto:conservation@danvillevt.gov), and be sure to put “no mow May” in the subject line. Let us know how much space you are dedicating to no mow May. If you can, a photo of your lawn at the beginning and end of May would be great to learn how many flowers result. Signs to note your participation are available for printing at <https://www.xerces.org/publications/other/no-mow-may>

With your permission, photos can be posted to the Danville Conservation Commission website to show your impact for pollinators.

Resources for further pollinator conservation efforts anywhere in the US are available here:

<https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center>