

Danville Conservation Commission Announces No Mow May:

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 and pollinators as they first emerge from hibernation. Research in both the UK and the US found that simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. No Mow May lawns had five times the number of bees and three times the bee species than did mown parks. This is important as all bee species are at risk, and native bee species are particularly stressed.

Native bees are considered the most important group of pollinators and pollinate apples, cherries and blueberries more effectively than honeybees (which originated in Europe vs native) because they will forage over a longer period of time during the day, and will visit flowers in wet or cold conditions, whereas honeybees tend to stay in the hive in those tougher conditions. One could say that like other Vermont natives, native 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 NOT mow all or part of your lawn from May 1 – May 31st.

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>