

No Mow May - Frequently Asked Questions

When can I mow?

We are now in the middle of May. With lots of rain and a few warm days the grass is getting pretty tall. Many of you are asking me if it's okay to cut your grass. The answer is a definite yes. There are no hard and fast rules for NMM. The objective is to cut as few times as possible and to cut on the highest setting possible. If you have a lot of turf grass, fertile soil, and a sunny spot, then you are likely already at the point where it might be a challenge to cut it with your mower. If you wait until it gets so high that you need to pull out the 2 cycle weed trimmer, then you might be doing more harm than good. So by all means mow it.

When will I get my Yard sign?

We have more participants than we have signs. If you have not received your sign by now then you will not be getting one this year. You may also not have received a sign if you live outside of the city limits. We did distribute a few that were just over the line, but with a limited supply that was generously funded by a grant from the Resilient Community Advisory Commission, we felt it important to prioritize Dubuque. We hope to have more signs next year.

Can I print my own sign?

Absolutely! Feel free to make your own sign or print one from the link on the NMM page of Sustainable Dubuque website. If you know someone else interested in participating, please let them know that they can do the same. But please register with the city so that the housing department knows that you are participating in the program in case there is a complaint. You can register at <https://www.sustainabledubuque.org/no-mow-may-dbq>

What should I do with my sign in June?

Please save it for next year. If NMM did not work out for you, please let me know and I will pick up the sign to give to someone else next year. Neighbor complaints, community association rules, there are lots of reasons that NMM may not have worked out for you. But please consider helping out the pollinators in other ways.

How many people are participating?

480 have signed up!

What other practices can benefit pollinators??

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides and pesticides. Plant pollinator friendly plants in your yard. Reduce the turf grass footprint. Plant pocket prairies. Turn off outdoor lights at night or use amber yellow spectrum lights invisible to most flying insects. Increase your mowing height and reduce the frequency throughout the year. Participate in Mowing to Monarchs : <https://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov/553/Mowing-to-Monarchs>. Stay involved and stay curious!

Can I help out with NMM?

Let me know if you want to help us out at the organizational level. I would love to add you to the list of volunteers that helped make this happen. It's a pretty wonderful group! From brainstorming to delivering signs we have lots of opportunities to help.

Can I meet other NMM participants?

Please join us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1226804018076919>. Also consider becoming a member of the FB page. It helps to show our strength in numbers. There are lots of wonderful photos shared and ideas discussed. We are building a strong community. We also plan on putting together a fundraising/gathering this summer so that we can have an opportunity to get to know each other in person. Date, location, and time TBA.

Thanks to everyone for being pioneers in NMM DBQ!
Ken Bichell