

MORE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY RESOURCES

Sustainable Dubuque

sustainabledubuque.org/no-mow-may-dbq

Mowing to Monarchs

extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/mowing-monarchs

Good Neighbor Iowa

goodneighbor Iowa.org

Bee City USA | Xerces Society

beecityusa.org | xerces.org

GET A FREE YARD SIGN WHEN YOU JOIN

sustainabledubuque.org/no-mow-may-dbq

(For residents of Dubuque. Supplies are limited.)



WANT TO DO MORE?

- Reduce or stop using herbicides and pesticides altogether.
- Plant a pocket prairie of native plants.
- Plant pollinator-friendly trees.
- Consider alternative lawn plantings like Dutch white clover, self-heal, and creeping thyme.
- Don't "clean up" your garden in the fall or early spring. Many pollinators rely on stems and leaves to overwinter.



GET IN TOUCH

Visit our website for more information.



Join our group on facebook

You can also connect with us at:

nomowmaydbq@gmail.com

NO MOW MAY

To Support Pollinator Habitat

A GUIDE FOR CREATING A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD



DO MORE BY DOING LESS

Mowing your lawn less frequently creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife, including bees and other pollinators. One way to reduce mowing is by participating in No Mow May.

No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, which is gaining traction across North America. No Mow May allows grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited.



WHAT ABOUT WEED REGULATIONS?

Here are a few tips for keeping local officials and your neighbors happy.

What happens if there is a complaint about my unmown lawn? The City of Dubuque encourages intentional participation by residents in pollinator conservation efforts, including planting native flowers. If you are participating in No Mow May or a similar initiative and you receive a complaint notice, please contact:

TAMI ERNSTER | *Housing Permits Clerk*

☎ 563.589.4231

✉ housing@cityofdubuque.org

Maintain a mowed buffer. Keeping a mowed edge around a natural planting may be all that's needed to define "lawn" from "garden" and keep you in step with local ordinances or homeowner association guidelines. Maintaining a tidy mowed edge also makes a busy natural planting look less overwhelming, and reinforces that these spaces are intentional.

Educate your neighbors and passersby about your landscaping choices. Displaying a simple sign designating your yard as pollinator habitat can make the difference between it being seen as a neglected area to people viewing it as an important part of a thriving landscape.

WHAT IF MY GRASS GETS TOO LONG TO CUT WITH MY MOWER?

No Mow May doesn't just help pollinators—it can improve your lawn. By reducing the mowing frequency, your lawn can become healthier and more resilient to drought. Plus, it won't require nearly as much watering.

But, No Mow May does not have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. Your yard equipment may be supercharged and mowing at the end of May might be no problem at all. But if you are concerned that your equipment may not be able to handle the excess growth, go ahead and cut it to your highest setting when you think it's approaching the limits of your mower. You will still be preserving many of the flowers that thrive below that highest mower setting.

No matter which approach you take, Paul Koch, an associate professor and turf grass extension specialist at the University of Wisconsin, explains:

"You never want to remove more than one-third of the green leafy tissue at any one time."

Depending on how tall your grass has grown, it could take a few weekends with the mower to get back to your usual lawn height.

