

MAY 2025 Newsletter

Preparing for NO MOW MAY

Ideas from www.plantlife.org.uk

Take the first step!

Whether this is your first year or you're a **NO MOW MAY** veteran, you will be contributing to a national movement to bring colour and life back to our green spaces.

Our lawns can be a riot of organisms, bursting into life, coexisting to make our world a more beautiful place. Below your lawn is a complex world of fungi and microbes living among the roots. Above the soil, plants shelter, feed, and support all kinds of beasts from insects to birds and mammals. Our valuable green spaces can be teeming with life across the seasons – if we only give them a little room to grow, and it will look pretty too.



What to do next year to prepare.

Is your April lawn already abundant with early wildflowers. If so, please avoid doing your first mow this month, and in the future mow in early March, with a blade setting high enough to pass over the emerging leaves of your spring flowers.

Most wildflowers make their best start to the season from a short lawn. Next year start your **NO MOW MAY** prep in late Autumn with a close mow as grass can smother wildflower seedlings growing slowly through autumn and winter, then make a short mow in early March. A good time to do this is when the grass is reasonably dry, don't forget to collect your cuttings so the lawn doesn't get clogged with debris

May means flowers, the start of your garden being full of brilliant blooms, colour and life until well into Autumn. Giving some lawns a high monthly cut will let shorter flowers



multiply, boosting nectar production. Leaving other areas longer will support tall plant species, which feed and shelter an array of animal life. Some completely untouched grassy strips left along hedgerows and fences will create effective ecological corridors along which wildlife can move. Variety is key for a wilder garden! You chose your areas and let nature flourish.

Short lawns, these are mown once every four weeks or so, allowing smaller plants such as Daisies and Bird's-foot-trefoil to flower in profusion, providing a fabulous food source. This will also attract many insects, such as mining bees that create their burrows in the ground.



Some parts of your garden need to be kept short, such as paths and recreational lawns for playing. Think carefully about where, and how large, these patches need to be. A reduction in mowing will have huge effect on the number of flowering plants in your garden and give wildlife that much needed support throughout the summer.

Tips for Nature-friendly Mowing



After **NO MOW MAY** a flowering lawn can be high level mowed once every 4-8 weeks with cut grass collected.

Mowing around the edges towards the centre leaves wildlife no escape route and creates a 'killing zone'. Mow gradually towards sanctuary areas such as uncut grass strips at boundaries, making a high level cut first, leave your low-level cuts until late in the Autumn

Be blooming proud of yourself

Making longer-term changes in mowing will do much more for nature, you will see biodiversity blossoming across the seasons. Over time, more and more plants will arrive, long-term participation in **NO MOW MAY** over consecutive years will see the greatest benefits for nature.

This is your chance to join in **NO MOW MAY**. Plan the areas you are going to leave wild or just devote your entire lawn or the whole of your garden to wildlife. Do as little as possible and see your garden flourish