

No Mow May 2022

1 May – 31 May

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What is No Mow May?

It's a national campaign where people across the country let their grass to grow throughout May to maximise food sources for insects. Not mowing the lawn allows wildflowers and other plants to grow which insects love.

The campaign is promoted by Plantlife, a British conservation charity working nationally and internationally to save threatened wildflowers, plants and fungi. For more information visit No Mow May (plantlife.org.uk).

Why do we need to help insects?

Insect populations are in decline and have been for decades – for comparison, in the 70s and 80s it was common to see insects on the windscreen of your car after most journeys in the summer, but this is a rare occurrence now.

Many animals and birds rely on insects and insect larvae as their main food source including protected species like hedgehogs and bats, birds, slow worms, frogs, toads and fish.

We rely on insects to pollinate most of our food crops and fruit trees – 75% of our food depends on insect pollination. Insect populations are an indication of the health of the environment and their decline puts our food security and the fragile eco systems that depend upon insects at risk. Insects are also responsible for the health of soils and decomposing dead plant and animal matter, breaking it down into nutrient rich soil.

How can we take part in No Mow May?

First and foremost – put your mower at home away! Leaving your lawn will give our insect populations a great deal of food and shelter early in the year, which helps them to thrive. Even if you can't leave the whole lawn, a patch of grass left to grow will help.

Speak to your grounds maintenance contractor or gardener about leaving some grass long for May. If you don't have any grass around your premises, is there anywhere you can put planters or pots with lavender or other pollinator friendly plants?

Spread the word – we've put together free messages and social media assets that you can use on your own Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other social media platforms to promote this national campaign and share your support with your followers, customers or local residents. We have also drafted an internal article which you can adapt for your own use.

Let it bloom for June, July and August – Why stop at the end of May? Leaving wildflowers in your grass, even if it's just a patch for the whole summer allows them to go to seed and will make even more of a display next year. You'll also be helping more insects and wildlife for longer and giving them the best chance to reproduce, feed and pollinate even more plants!

What is South Gloucestershire Council doing to support No Mow May?

We are supporting No Mow May by only cutting our key routes and the commitments we have with parishes. We have identified some specific areas where we won't be cutting anything for the whole of May. We have to continue cutting grass on most of our parks and open spaces to make them accessible and safe for people to use, but we'll put signs up in the areas we're leaving for No Mow May.

[Messages for internal newsletters/staff](#)

We're buzzing for No Mow May

The urgency of climate change and the impact it will have on all of us is more apparent than ever. IT also highlights that we must all play a part in protecting nature and reducing our own impact on the environment wherever we can.

Taking part in No Mow May is a really simple action we can all do to help protect and restore nature in our area. All you have to do is leave part or even all of your lawn to grow throughout May to **support pollinating insects**. Insects are a main food source for many species - birds, slow worms, frogs, fish, hedgehogs and bats all rely on insects to survive. Our own food security is inextricably linked with insect life, with around a third of our food crops relying on insect pollination.

The decline of insects is very concerning and is affecting food production and the fragile ecosystems that rely on the work they do. Loss of habitat is one of the main causes of their decline and is something we can all help with - simply changing your mowing routine and allowing plants to flower in your garden can create enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators and create habitats that will help insects (and other wildlife) to thrive.

Taking part in No Mow May will also help you and your garden by:

- improving the health of your plants
- improving the quality of your soil
- helping to reduce some pests – some insects and their larvae feed on aphids, slugs and snails
- support food supplies for us
- support other wildlife including birds, hedgehogs, slow worms, bats and frogs

All you need to do is put your mower away during May and let the grass and flowers grow. They'll provide food and shelter for insects, which will pollinate the plants at the same time as feeding on nectar. Why stop at May? Leaving some of your lawn to bloom for June (or even the rest of the summer) will provide even more food and shelter that will help insects for even longer.

If you don't want to commit your whole lawn to No Mow May, leaving a patch to grow will still attract lots of insects to your garden. If you don't have a lawn, a pot of lavender grown on a windowsill or balcony or plants in containers on a patio will provide a popular feeding pit stop for bees.

Try to avoid using any herbicides or pesticides to make sure insects can thrive during May.

Your garden might not look at its tidiest, but you'll be doing a huge amount for nature locally. You could even keep a patch of lawn grass long for the growing whole season if you want to do more.

No Mow May is a national campaign and we're working with partners across South Gloucestershire to promote the message.

Find out more about No Mow May at [No Mow May \(plantlife.org.uk\)](http://plantlife.org.uk)

Social media posts

Social media graphics

Download images at [Climate emergency community engagement | South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](http://southglos.gov.uk)



Facebook/LinkedIn etc...

1 – No Mow May starts today – you don't have to do much, just lock up your lawnmower for a month and let your lawn bloom! It's one of the simplest ways you can help nature in your area. It's also great for you – more insects means more pollination, better soil quality and more life in your plants and garden.

No lawn? No problem! Plant some lavender or other pollinator friendly plants in pots to give passing insects a snack. [No Mow May \(plantlife.org.uk\)](http://plantlife.org.uk).

2 – 75% of our food relies on natural pollination by insects – you might think it's all about bees, but beetles, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies and mosquitoes are also important pollinators.

We all have the power to support insect populations – simply take part in #NoMowMay and #LetItBloomJune. [No Mow May \(plantlife.org.uk\)](http://plantlife.org.uk)

4 – You can create enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators in your garden just by letting some or all your lawn grow for #NoMowMay and #LetItBloomJune! Insects are essential to life, pollinating billions of plants, feeding other wildlife and adding nutrition to soils by decomposing dead plants and animals.

Support your local wildlife and join us for #NoMowMay.

5 – If you want to support insects for #NoMowMay and #LetItBloomJune, but don't have a lawn, don't worry! Simply planting pollinator- attracting flowers in containers on a patio, balcony or even a windowsill will be a welcome snack to bees, butterflies, and other insects this summer.

Some popular plants to look out for include Rudbeckia hirta 'Toto', Verbena rigida, Cosmos Apollo and lavender are all ideal for patio containers and have a long flowering season. [Nectar-Rich Container Display - BBC Gardeners' World Magazine.](#)

6 - Bats love #NoMowMay – insects are the main food for the 17 species of bats in the UK. Bats are fully protected, and we want to help these tiny flying mammals as much as we can. Taking part in #NoMowMay will increase insect populations and keep our furry little friends fed throughout the summer.

7 - Butterflies love #NoMowMay (graphic) – Butterflies feed on flowers and nectar and will visit any garden if there is a good source of food. Even plants in containers will attract them for #NoMowMay. Visit butterfly-conservation.org to find out how you can help butterflies in your garden.

8 – Increasing insect numbers and biodiversity is an important part of tackling climate change and changing the way we treat our gardens is one of the best ways we can all get involved. If you want to know more about the climate and nature emergency, how it affects you and what you can do to make a difference, take a look at the free simple online course from South Gloucestershire Council at [Climate emergency | South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk).

9 – If you don't have a lawn, you can still take part in #NoMowMay - make your garden more attractive for insects and other wildlife by not using pesticides, putting in a pond, water butt or rain garden and planting pollinator friendly plants in containers. Find out more at [Winter gardening for wildlife \(UK\) - soil, carbon, climate - Bing video.](#)

Twitter

1 – We're buzzing for #NoMowMay – are you?

2 – Put your mower away for #NoMowMay and #LetItBloomJune and help support our pollinators.

3 - No Mow May is a national campaign to let your lawn grow during May when wildflowers and insects become active. Pollinating insects are responsible for a third of the food we eat, so taking part in #NoMowMay helps us as well as them!

4 – Taking part in #NoMowMay to let your lawn bloom can create enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators in your garden.

5- Bats love #NoMowMay – insects are the main food source for the 17 species of bats in the UK. Encouraging more in your garden will help to feed these amazing flying mammals.

6 – Spend #NoMowMay making your garden more nature friendly [Winter gardening for wildlife \(UK\) - soil, carbon, climate - Bing video](#)

7 - Want to help tackle the climate emergency at home? Try this free online course from South Gloucestershire Council to find out more [Climate emergency | South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk).

8 - If you want to do more for insects and plants after #NoMowMay, why not leave a patch of your lawn for #LetItBloomJune?

Posters

If you're leaving an area of grass for No Mow May this year – let everyone know by putting up a sign! We have free artwork available to download at [Climate emergency community engagement | South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk).



Other information

Every Flower Counts is a citizen science project from Plantlife, encouraging people to count the wild flowers they find in their gardens. The survey is easy to take part in and provides important data that helps track the health of the environment across the UK.

The survey starts at the end of May - [Every Flower Counts | Plantlife](https://plantlife.org.uk)

Let It Bloom June is the next step to taking part in No Mow May – allowing flowers to continue to bloom throughout June provides even more food and shelter for our insect friends and gives them an even better chance to reproduce and increase their numbers. Remember – more flowers means more insects. More insects means better soil, greater food security and a healthier environment!