



MANAGING YOUR LAWN FOR POLLINATORS



Want to increase the flower diversity in your lawn to help pollinators in your garden? No matter how you use your garden, there is a way to manage it to benefit pollinators too.

If you can leave your whole lawn uncut for pollinators that is great! But not everyone can do that, you may have animals that use the lawn every day, or children that play in the garden, and practically leaving the lawn uncut is not an option. Below are tips on how often to mow your lawn given your circumstances, and the benefits that both types of management have for pollinators and you:



Leaving Long Grass

Cut twice a year; once early spring to remove the winter growth and again late summer/autumn once the flowers have gone to seed and dispersed into the lawn.

Benefits: Increased diversity of flowers. More shelter for pollinators. Letting flowers go to seed refills the seed bank, so you do not have to buy new seed each year.

Creating Different Lawn Lengths



Mowing once a month can also support some flowers for pollinators, but try to leave borders or patches of longer, uncut lawn where possible.

Benefits: Shorter flowers like daisies & clover can bloom. Borders and patches of long grass provide increased flower biodiversity. Paths give you easier access to garden.

Whichever method you opt for, don't forget to **remove the grass clippings**. It stops excess nutrients returning to the soil and allows your wildflowers to flourish.

Top tips for managing your lawn:

Adding flowers to your lawn: Seeds need direct contact with soil to germinate. If starting with a full lawn of grass, either remove the grass to plant wildflower seeds, or plant your flowers as partially grown plugs (or seedlings you have grown yourself from seed) at random intervals in a recently mown lawn.



When to add flowers: Flower plugs with established roots can be planted at most times of the year, especially the warmer months, although you may need to keep them watered in dry periods. If you are growing your own seedling plugs in autumn, overwinter them in a greenhouse and plant the plugs in the spring.



Which flowers to add: Make sure to pick native flowers. You also want to pick a mixture of flower structures to feed a variety of pollinators, and from different flowering seasons to support pollinators throughout the year. Try adding the plants below to your lawn. The season refers to when they will flower.



Too much grass? Plant Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) or Red Bartsia (*Odontites verna*). These are semi-parasitic to grasses, stealing extra nutrients from the grass roots, and naturally reducing vigorous grass growth or removing some of the grasses to allow wildflowers to grow.



Spring

- Bugle
- Cowslip
- Forget-me-nots
- Oxeye Daisy
- Primrose



Summer

- Bird's-foot Trefoil
- Common Knapweed
- Red Clover
- Selfheal
- Wild Carrot



Late Summer

- Chamomile
- Field Scabious
- Hemp Agrimony
- Wild Marjoram
- Yarrow



Perseverance is Key! Getting the diversity of flowers to increase doesn't happen overnight and can take several years to get right. Keep at it, keep removing the grass cuttings and you'll see over time the range of flowers increase, and so will the types of pollinators using your garden!