



No Mow May

The No Mow May Initiative: What it is and how you can take part!

#NoMowMay is a campaign initiative created by environmental charity, [Plantlife](#), which encourages individuals and organisations to avoid mowing their lawns this May. The purpose of the campaign supports biodiversity on our own doorstep by encouraging long

grass and native wildflowers to bloom. Every year, we get involved to support our clients and partners, e.g. RSPB, to relinquish the mower this May and let nature breathe. The campaign starts May 1st.





Why is No Mow May beneficial?

With the world becoming increasingly more urbanised, No Mow May aims to help these spaces optimise their potential to support our eco-systems.

Maintaining patches of long grass, no matter how small, allows the growth of pollen-rich wildflowers, which is essential for the health of bees, butterflies, and a whole scope of other species.



Did you know the UK has lost around 97% of flower-rich meadows?



What benefits does it have on biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms, both plant and animal life, that exists in natural habitats. The intricate relationship between them is critical to the survival of humans.

Studies have shown the significant relationship biodiversity has with the health of our planet. From supporting pollination, water purification, and carbon sequestration to reducing urban heat extremes and locking away atmospheric carbon below ground; biodiversity within our natural world is integral to our existence.

What are the pros and cons of No Mow May?

Positives

- No Mow May promotes biodiversity by allowing native wildflowers and plants to grow to their full potential giving them time to fertilise and seed
- Creates colourfully-rich environments in often urban areas
- It supports pollinators such as bees, butterflies and more
- Taking part can not only help the environment but allows you to enjoy the results first hand
- It requires zero effort. Put your feet up and don't mow your lawn. Simple!

Negatives

- Some members of the public might see tall grass and mature native plants as messy or unsightly
- Long grassy areas may increase the volume of pests and weeds which may require some human intervention and responsible management
- No Mow May should be considered carefully as it may not always be suitable for all areas
- In fact, if the grass gets too long during May, cutting with electric equipment becomes more difficult and sometimes traditional tools have to be brought back into service

Since its beginning in 2019, No Mow May has gained widespread support from the public, environmental groups and local councils. Many see No Mow May as an opportunity to reconnect with nature and appreciate the natural beauty of native wildlife while supporting the enhancement of nature rich habitats.



How to get involved?

Raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity could incentivise others to get involved in No Mow May too. For more information on the significance of No Mow May, you can direct your friends and family to this handy infosheet here: www.idverde.co.uk/projects/no-mow-may

Or visit Plantlife for more information:
www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay

Quick Tips

1. Do not mow your lawn – simple!
2. Limit cutting back hedge rows. If you do, ensure you cut back at the correct time of the year so to reduce the risk of disturbing nesting birds. Spring is an important time for animals rearing their young
3. Leave habitat piles and dead wood. They can have huge benefits for biodiversity
4. When dealing with invasive species, take extra care not to spread the problem
5. Cut the long grass once the flowers have gone over and set seed. In practice, this is usually towards the end of summer/early autumn
6. Remove any cuttings. Leaving cuttings on your lawn for too long will encourage the growth of grasses, docks and nettles which will out-compete wildflowers

- There are over 20 million gardens as well as public spaces in the UK that can boost biodiversity during No Mow May
- As part of Plantlife's annual No Mow May campaign, research found that simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators