

NO MOW MAY

*Glen Rose: A welcoming and unique, family-oriented community committed to preserving our **natural beauty** and historic, small-town charm.*

Purpose:

To request that the City adopt and promote the “No Mow May” initiative for the month of May by temporarily suspending mowing on select city-managed properties and encouraging residents to participate voluntarily—without penalty—in support of pollinators, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability. Updating the existing City ordinance in support of this effort allows for an automatic annual suspension.

Background:

Pollinators, especially bees, are essential to our ecosystem. They are responsible for the reproduction of over 85% of flowering plants and a third of the food we eat. However, pollinator populations are declining rapidly due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate changes.

Spring is a critical time for bees and other pollinators, as they emerge from hibernation in search of food. In North Texas, wildflowers and native grasses often begin blooming by April and May—right when pollinators need them most. Unfortunately, frequent mowing during this period removes these essential food sources.

The “No Mow May” movement encourages homeowners and municipalities to delay mowing during May to allow wildflowers and grasses to flourish—creating temporary habitats rich in nectar and pollen.

By adopting “No Mow May,” our city can take a small but meaningful step to protect pollinators, promote native ecosystems, and engage residents in a shared commitment to environmental responsibility. I respectfully request that the Council approve this initiative and join communities across the nation in making space for nature—starting right here at home.

[Click here to learn more](#)

NO MOW MAY

Purpose:

To request that the City adopt and promote the “No Mow May” initiative for the month of May by temporarily suspending mowing on select city-managed properties and encouraging residents to participate voluntarily—without penalty—in support of pollinators, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability.

Background:

Pollinators, especially bees, are essential to our ecosystem. They are responsible for the reproduction of over 85% of flowering plants and a third of the food we eat. However, pollinator populations are declining rapidly due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate changes.

Spring is a critical time for bees and other pollinators, as they emerge from hibernation in search of food. In North Texas, wildflowers and native grasses often begin blooming by April and May—right when pollinators need them most. Unfortunately, frequent mowing during this period removes these essential food sources.

The “No Mow May” movement encourages homeowners and municipalities to delay mowing during May to allow wildflowers and grasses to flourish—creating temporary habitats rich in nectar and pollen.

City Participation

1. Suspend mowing on designated city-managed greenspaces, parks, and rights-of-ways for the month of May, where feasible and not safety-critical.
2. Place signage in participating areas to explain the initiative and promote community awareness.
3. Utilize social media, the city website, and local press to promote the program and share educational content.
4. Encourage residents to voluntarily delay mowing for the month of May to support local pollinators.
5. Temporarily pause or relax enforcement of lawn height ordinances during the month of May.
6. Recognize and celebrate participation by highlighting “Pollinator-Friendly Yards” on social media or through a voluntary signup/nomination program.

NO MOW MAY

Benefits to the Natural Habitat:

- Enhances biodiversity by allowing native wildflowers and grasses to bloom, which provide food and nesting materials.
- Supports bee and butterfly populations, many of which are declining and play a vital role in both wild and cultivated plant reproduction.
- Improves soil health and fosters natural water retention, which can reduce runoff and erosion.

Benefits to the Community:

- Promotes environmental awareness and stewardship among residents.
- Encourages family and youth participation in conservation efforts and gardening.
- Improves aesthetics in a natural, wildflower-rich way, especially in areas where native species thrive.

Benefits to the City:

- Reduces mowing costs and fuel use for city-managed properties during the month of May.
- Positions our city as a leader in sustainability and conservation, joining a growing list of environmentally-conscious communities across the U.S.
- Fosters partnerships with local organizations, schools, and conservation groups—creating long-term opportunities for education and engagement.

NO MOW MAY

The goal of “No Mow May” is to pause mowing during the month of May, allowing flowers to bloom to help early season pollinators.

How exactly will allowing my lawn to grow benefit pollinators?

Mowing your lawn less allows flowering plants to bloom, providing bees and other pollinators with the nectar and pollen that they rely on to feed themselves as well as their offspring. This is the primary benefit, giving flowers a chance to bloom uninterrupted and in greater abundance. Longer grass can also provide other benefits to invertebrates including shelter. The more varied structure created by longer grass will support more than just bees, including ground beetles as well as some species of butterflies that use grasses as host plants. The fiery skipper and sagemore are two examples of butterflies whose caterpillars utilize lawn grasses.

So, letting my lawn grow will be great for bees!

It won't be great, but it will be better than nothing. Letting your lawn grow and having Dutch clover, dandelions, and other weeds flowering will mean there is something for bees to forage on, but many weeds are non-native, and don't support a wide range of native bees. In addition, some lawn weeds are noxious and need to be controlled. To be honest, it would be better if you rip up your lawn and replace it with a little meadow or prairie. But reducing the intensity of lawn maintenance is a starting point for changing our neighborhoods into places that will support bees and other wildlife.

Given that my lawn is primarily turf grass and non-native weedy species, will I be spreading weeds by not mowing my lawn?

Because lawns are usually mown, the plants that grow there are species that tolerate those conditions. Both grasses and typical lawn weeds have buds that are low to the ground, so they are able to re-sprout after each mowing and their roots tolerate the compacted soil that is caused by the frequent passing of the mower's tires. Turfgrass and common lawn weeds may also grow in nearby compacted soil, but in general, they will not spread to other non-lawn areas, where different soil conditions and the presence of other perennial vegetation or tillage is beyond their “comfort zone.”

Will the flowers in my lawn support a lot of bees?

While lawns are traditionally maintained as primarily monocultures of one of a handful of species of often non-native grass, many lawns also include a variety of native and non-native flowering species. Common examples of flowers found in lawns include dandelions and Dutch clover, but you may also have native species of clovers, violets, and selfheal. The number of bees that your unmown lawn supports depends on the species and abundance of flowers intermixed with the grass. A lawn without any flowering plants won't benefit bees while one rich in a diversity of native species will attract lots of bees. Non-native plant species will provide some nectar and pollen to bees, however native plants will attract and support a greater variety of native bee species. Since many of the thousands of bee species native to North America are specialists, relying on the specific plant species that they evolved alongside, it's important to do what you can to increase native plants.

I didn't realize that there were so many types of bees. How many are there?

There are just over 3,600 species of bees in the U.S. and Canada: mason bees, sweat bees, mining bees, polyester bees, small carpenter bees, yellow-faced bees, leafcutter bees, long-horned bees, squash bees, carpenter bees, bumble bees, digger bees, and more! The largest (carpenter bees and bumble bees) may be 1.25” long, the smallest (tiny sweat bees and mining bees) 0.1” or less in length. Bees may be hairy or shiny, be black, brown, red, sparkling metallic green, or shimmering blue, have bands of yellow, orange, white, or change color depending on the light angle — not at all like the cartoon image of black-and-yellow and hairy.