

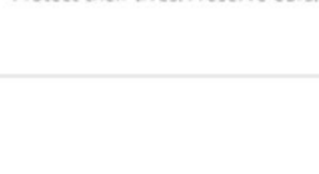
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Bee Friendly Gardening

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

April 2025



No Mow May

It is a wonderful first step

Shaun McCoshum, PhD, Senior Ecologist



It is that time of year again, where posts flood social media promoting No Mow May in order to help wildlife. Soon to follow will be people posting opinions and memes saying the program is terrible and bad for wildlife. As with most things in ecology, it is more nebulous than a simple good and bad. So, should you avoid mowing in May? The short answer is probably yes – but you might be steps ahead and there is more to this movement to understand.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

How Wildflower Seed Libraries are a Model for Transformative Education

A seed distribution model pioneered in Canada's capital is quickly making waves in the native plant and ecological gardening movement

Samuel LeGresley, blogger and Butterflyway Ranger from Eastern Canada



It was a cold but sunny mid-November day when I arrived in Orleans, a neighborhood in the Canadian capital of Ottawa, to meet Mélanie Ouellette. The founder of the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library (OWSL) greeted me warmly at the community's hockey arena, where a seed distribution event had just ended in one of the rooms on the second floor. I arrived late at the event, because of train delays. Thankfully, she and the volunteers of the library had delayed cleanup just so that I could see how they set up the room. How generous of them, I thought. This room was the setting for a seed distribution event just minutes ago, one of Mélanie's inventions. Since 2020, when she started from modest beginnings, she has grown from one table to 10, moving from driveways to parks, and eventually into rented rooms at community centers and arenas.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Last Chance to Shop the Native Plant Sale with My Home Park

Exclusive Member Opportunity!



Don't forget! In celebration of Native Plant Month, BFG members receive 10% off with **code P2BFG10 (Valid April 1-30, 2025)**. This opportunity* is exclusive to Bee Friendly Gardening members, so use it while you can! For every four plants sold through this partnership, My Home Park will add another one to a **native plant garden jackpot** which will be **available for claim by one lucky BFG member**.

*Native plants included in this sale are exclusive to the Eastern U.S. only. My Home Park is hoping to expand their distribution to more regions in the future!

[SHOP FOR PLANTS](#)

[APPLY FOR JACKPOT](#)

Sow Much Love for Mom

Our partners at Stover Seed Company have generously offered a one-time 10% discount for Pollinator Partnership supporters in honors of Mother's Day! Get 10% off your order when you buy two 4oz packs of [regionally native wildflower seeds](#). Perfect for moms (or mom-figures!) who want to plant for pollinators.

Stover Seed Company's native mixes have been carefully curated for specific geographic regions and will attract pollinators to your landscape.

[Shop the sale](#) and use code **mom10** to receive the discount. Happy Early Mother's Day to our supporters!

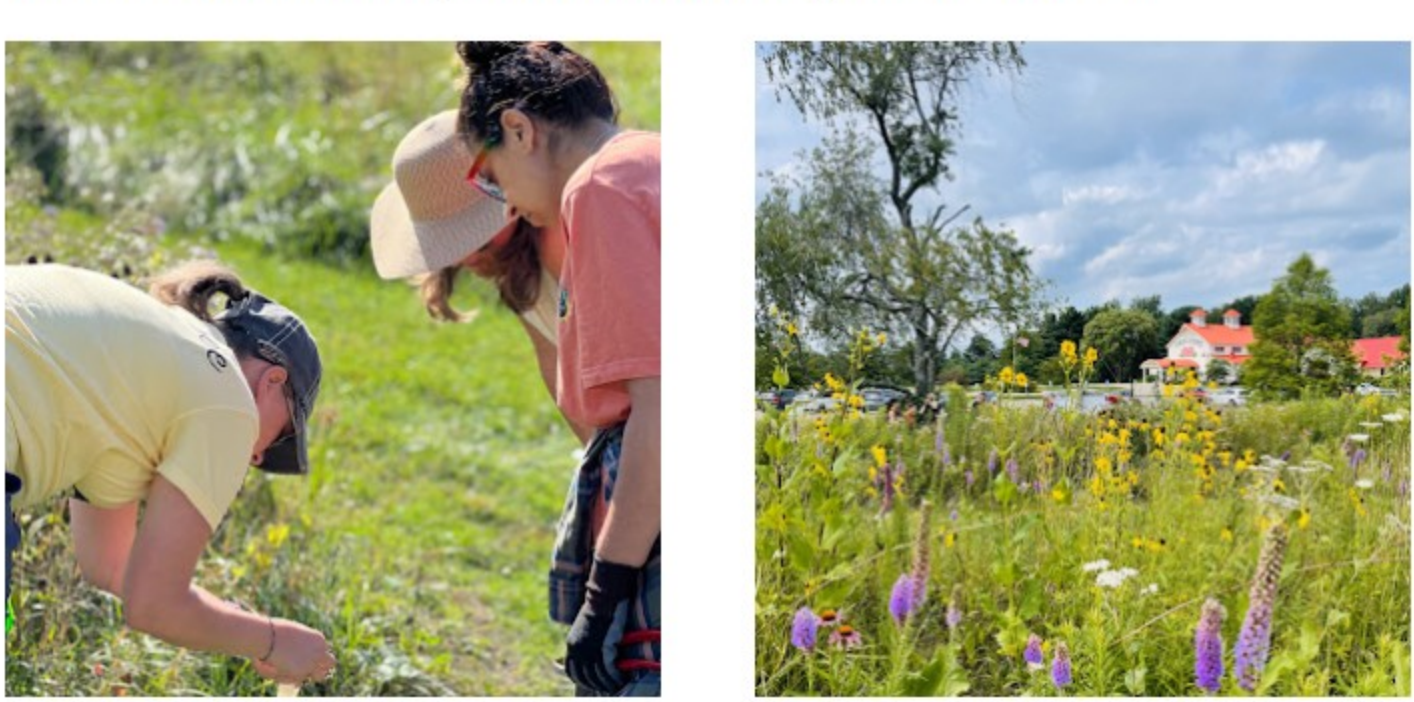


[PURCHASE SEEDS](#)

Partnership in Bloom: The J.M. Smucker Co. and Pollinator Partnership's Ongoing Commitment to Conservation

Reed Lievers - Partnerships and Development Coordinator, Pollinator Partnership

Over the past decade Pollinator Partnership (P2) and The J.M. Smucker Co. have partnered to advance pollinator conservation. The partnership first arose from a desire on the part of Smucker to promote the monarch butterfly and its conservation in Ohio, where the company's headquarters are located. As one of the inaugural partners of P2's [Monarch Wings Across Ohio](#) program, Smucker was able to sponsor the creation of four practical and highly detailed [guides](#) to the creation and maintenance of monarch habitat in the state, aimed at four separate audiences: corporations, homeowners, rights of way (ROW) managers, and farmers. In fact, Smucker went beyond simply sponsoring the creation of these guides, setting aside land at its headquarters in Orrville, OH to act as a research plot to trial the habitat creation techniques outlined in the guides themselves.



[READ ARTICLE](#)

2025 Pollinator of the Year

The #PollinatorOfTheYear, squash bees (*Xenoglossa*), are picky eaters. You read that right, bees can be choosy! Being pollen specialists, squash bees only eat and collect pollen from plants in the Cucurbita genus which contains squash, gourds, and pumpkins. They wake up early in the morning to visit squash flowers and are extremely effective at pollination.



Source: [Bee Basics – An Introduction to Our Native Bees](#)

Celebrating Wildflowers

Ethnobotany: Plants Sustaining People

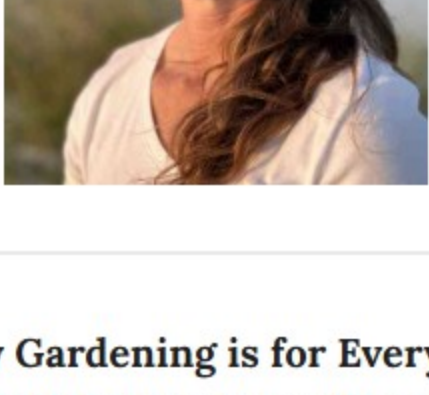


Plants give us food, drink, shelter, medicine, fiber, dyes, waxes, essential oils, perfumes, and the air we breathe. Countless people before us tested and kept plants that were useful. Our cultures evolved by passing ever more sophisticated knowledge of plants along from generation to generation. Even in this age, we depend on plants and their pollinators for our existence and survival.

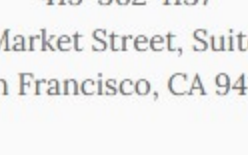


- Notable Dates:**
- April - National Native Plant Month
 - May 4-10 - International Compost Awareness Week
 - May 9- National Public Gardens Day
 - May 3 - National Start Seeing Monarchs Day
 - May 10 - World Migratory Bird Day
 - May 11 - Mother's Day
 - May 16 - National Love a Tree Day
 - May 19 - World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day
 - May 16 - Endangered Species Day
 - May 20 - World Bee Day
 - May 20 - [Reduce Your Lawn Day](#)
 - June 16-22 - [Pollinator Week](#)

Thank you from Sara Wittenberg, your Bee Friendly Gardening Manager



Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape!
Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.



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