



February, 2020

Hello All,

January and February are a great time to plan for the coming year. It's also a good time to look back and think about the past year. For Pollinator Pathways it has been an awesome year. Thank you to every one who has joined in the effort to help pollinators survive. And of course the added benefit is that there are great gardens popping up all over town. It is truly a win-win. Help the pollinators, mow less, and beautify the town. Pollinator Pathways message is simple; let's plant native wildflowers on selected patches of land, and let's leave some areas to go wild a little. Cut less lawn and leave the cut lawn longer. Don't use chemical fertilizers or insecticides. The expected benefits will be great for not much cost or effort



February is also a great time of year for spending time dreaming about flowers and gardens. The seed catalogs are full of ideas. One interesting idea is that you can sow seeds now - snow and all. Wildflower seeds need the cold to germinate for the spring. It has been mild, the ground is showing-it's a good time to think about winter sowing of seeds.

Generally speaking an easy method of getting seed out around the edges of your property is to plant some now. Envision where you would like some wild flowers...the edge of your lawn...out near some trees to spread the wild space...out in the back lawn area that you planned on not mowing next summer anyway..

Bring out the seeds and a small rake. Disturb the 'duff' (dead leaves and grasses) with the rake and sprinkle the seeds over the ground. Shuffle the duff back and around and you've planted seeds. Most wild seeds need the cold to germinate and be ready for Spring. If it snows-- so much the better. All the seeds won't grow, but some will. I have always used 'old' seed up when I find packets with old dates that didn't get planted the way I planned. I have had lots of blooms from 'old' seed. This year my 'old' seed packets are going out into the rough areas around the lawns. If plants come up, great. If only a few make it, it's still a few pretty plants. It took me about 30 minutes of being outside enjoying the mild weather to do it.



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Just a note: Wildlife needs water in the Winter. Although most birds and critters can eat snow you will see more birds around your yard and feeders if you put out water with a heater to keep it from freezing.

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The following are some sites that have a great variety of information:  
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www.xerces.org

This website is for pollinators and pollinator projects. It has national coverage and international programs. **Lots** of information

COOL GREEN SCIENCE is just what it says...fascinating. Conservation sciences blog from the Nature Conservancy. <https://blog.nature.org/science/>

www.humanegardener.com

Articles about pollinators and other creatures. Fascinating articles and beautiful pictures.

<https://www.humanegardener.com/10-favorite-plants-for-hummingbirds>

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Feb. 20 - 7 pm - Pollinator Plants and Gardening Tips](#) with Molly Janicki
Rye Jr. High School. 501 Washington Rd., Rye, 03870

[Thurs. Feb. 27 - 5:30 pm - A Garden for Pollinators and Wildlife](#) with Vicki Brown
Durham Public Library, Durham (hosted by SELT)

[Weds., March 18 - 7pm - Pollinator Conversations: What Works in Your Garden?](#)
[Open Mic](#) - Newton Town Hall, 2 Town Hall Rd., Newton, 03858

Happy Valentines, and Primary Voting!
Marghi Bean