

Pollinator PATHWAYS *New Hampshire*

Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

May 2022

Hello Everyone,

I was remiss not sending out an April Letter. I was a “snow bird” this winter for the first time in my life and am still getting everything back into order and catching up.

Spring seems to finally be here although it is going to be hot and then cool off again. This spring seemingly doesn't want to let go of winter.

But it is Spring and time to think about ways to help pollinators as we start mowing lawns, making gardens and planting pots.

One early season effort to help pollinators is NO MOW MAY.

Why is May a no mow month? No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, but which is gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. May people find this hard to do. So, then... **MOW AS HIGH AS YOU CAN AND MOW LESS.** No Mow May encourages the very early blooms for pollinators. Among these blooms are violets and dandelions.



Helping pollinators is really simple: Our plants and the pollinators have evolved together. They need each other. When a beautiful plant that originated in another country is planted here it provides no food for the native pollinators and the pollinators die.

Worse than that, many of the beautiful plants in nurseries right now have been treated with neonicotinoids (known as neonics). These chemicals are used on the plants from when they are small. The plants are totally impregnated with the chemical and when they bloom the nectar of the flowers can kill the pollinators that go to them.

Pollinator Pathways NH has a few simple rules to help pollinators:

Plant NATIVE plants (even a few native plants help)

Use no pesticides (spraying for one bug kills them all) Mow your lawn less and as high a height as you are able. (Mow smaller areas, have pathways and get creative with the meadow that develops around the edges)

Be a lazy gardener.



In NH we have seven pollinator types. The following attachment tells about our pollinators (copy and paste)

<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2020/02/who-are-pollinators-nhs-super-seven>

The most exciting part of spring is planting new seeds and seedlings. The planning that has gone into the gardens during the winter makes Spring a lot of fun.

The Northeast Region Planting guide is a recipe card developed by Pollinator Partnership. It can guide you to a great garden.

-copy and paste if you want more information <https://www.pollinator.org/gardencards>)

But you can always do things your own way! It doesn't matter if you own many acres or if you have pots on a deck...Go to National Wildlife Federation and get a wonderful native plant list by just using your zip code

(copy/paste) - <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

Enjoy the project that you choose and enjoy the summer.



Upcoming Events

May 14 – Sat. 10- 1pm Alewife Festival

Exeter- @ Founder's Parkway

An environmental festival celebrating the annual return of the alewives.

Pollinator Pathways is supporting this fair with an information table



May 21 – Friends of the Kingston Library Annual Plant Sale

There are always hundreds of plants and a good crowd for this event.
Come find some native plants for your projects

May 21 - Seed Library starts at Kingston Community Library (soft opening)

PPNH and KCL are starting a seed Library!

We will have a seed display in the library and also will be running a raffle.

Our raffle item is a Native Plant Kit generously donated by Bagley Pond Perennials, Warner, NH

May 28 - Valley Lane/South Kingston Town Forest

Valley Lane trail clean up for National Trails Day needs volunteers. The trails are intermediate and the clean up is easy. Valley Lane contains one of our town pollinator gardens.

June 4th National Trails Day

Come join in explore Kingston's Valley Lane Town Forest.

This forest was chosen for National Trails Day. Sponsored by SELT

PPNH meetings are open to the public

They are held on the third Thursday of the month at Kingston Community Library
– 5:30 pm. In the Pope Room All interested people are welcome to come.

Find us on FB <https://www.facebook.com/pollinatorpathwaysnh/>

On the Kingston NH website: [commission/pages/pollinator-pathway](https://www.kingstonnh.com/commission/pages/pollinator-pathway)

Enjoy Spring!

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