



Protecting Pollinators

What is a No-Mow Area?

“No-Mow” is an initiative that aims to protect pollinators, enhance micro-habitats, and transform residential lawns to capture and store carbon more efficiently.



It is achieved by dedicating some or all of your lawn to grow freely without mowing, pesticides, or other non-natural alterations.

Benefits of a No-Mow Area



Increased food source for insects, birds, and mammals.



Increased habitat and food sources for pollinators in one area.



Decreased amounts of garbage, sediment, and polluted water that reach our waterways due to the deeper roots of native plants.



Native plants in no-mow areas have deep roots and act as a carbon sink.



Gas powered lawn mowers emit eight times the pollution that a car engine does, resulting in about 106 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions in just one season.
(Government of Canada: One-Tonne Challenge)



Did You Know?

Lupines are a staple of PEI in June and July, however, these fast spreading plants aren't native to the island. Their aggressive growth crowds out native species and reduces biodiversity. Lupines have shallow root systems that do little to prevent erosion, and pose a threat to livestock and other mammals due to their toxic seeds. For alternatives to lupins, head over to MacPhail Woods website to see a list of native wildflower and plant species you can incorporate to your no-mow area!

Steps to Creating a No-Mow Area

No-mow areas can be as simple as dedicating a small portion of your lawn to grow freely, or as complex as planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to maximize ecological benefits.

Choose an area of your lawn that receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight.

Notice if this area is prone to flooding or wet soils, or if it's relatively dry throughout the summer. Plant your species according to these factors.

1

Using native wildflower seeds, mix with a handful of sand to ensure even spread. Next, use a rake to smooth out the ground.

2

For best effects on the pollinator species in your area, plant wildflowers of the same species in groups of at least 10. Bees tend to focus on one species of flower at a time, so having clusters of the same species is beneficial.

Gently till the area to loosen soil so that new roots can grow and access water with ease.

3

Plant native shrubs and trees.

Unlike wildflowers, you do not want to plant trees and shrubs in clumps as they will eventually shade out wildflowers. Utilize the edges of your no mow area for these species.

Water the entire area frequently and cover with compost, straw, or peat.

Covering the seeds will help deter birds from eating them before they are established.

Wildflower blooms should appear in five to six weeks.

4

5



Resources

Selecting Plants for Pollinators

PEI is home to many wildflowers, trees and shrubs that attract a variety of wildlife. For advice on what, when, and where to plant, check out this guide for farmers, gardeners and land managers!



Native Trees & Shrubs: A collection of publications from the Macphail Woods Ecological Forest Project

Looking for a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers? MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry Project has got you covered.



Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project: Nursery Catalogue 2022

