

# No Mow April

## - Laurel Participant Guide -



### Learn about and contribute to future Bee City activities!

Native garden planting, educational events, and more

Email [beecity@laurel.md.us](mailto:beecity@laurel.md.us) to sign up.

### Timeline

- **Invite your neighbors** to register for free with the city at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green/no-mow-april> through March 30th.
  - Yard signs can be picked up after registering from 9a-4:30p at the City Municipal Center (8103 Sandy Spring Rd), or by appointment from a city community center by emailing [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us).
- **Let your grass grow** through the month of April.
- **Begin mowing again by May 1st**, if it's gotten taller than 8 inches. Other plants will be blooming for the bees by then.

### Why do the bees need our help?



#### We're in a crisis.

- All across America, our native wildlife is headed toward extinction.
- We've disrupted about 97% of our wild places to build roads, farms, and cities.
- Ecologists tell us that most of our wild bird and insect species will go extinct if we continue on the same path. Extinction means gone forever.
- If we can make some of our land friendly to wildlife again, we can keep some animals from extinction.

### How does your participation help our pollinators?

#### Provides Food for Bees

- Most turf grass has other plants mixed in, some of which flower in early Spring.
- Native purple violets bloom in April, alongside European white clover.
- Taller grasses and wildflowers can also shelter native bees, who literally get tired and need to take a nap sometimes!

#### Reduces Our Impact

- Unlike your car, gas lawn mowers lack a catalytic converter, which means they produce a much higher level of pollution per hour.

#### The First of Many Steps

- Many past "No Mow" program participants have found that taking time to observe their lawns and gardens closely was the first step toward more wildlife-friendly practices and even a new passion for native gardening.

# Helping native pollinators and other wildlife

## How can residents and businesses help pollinators?

- Reduce or avoid herbicides and insecticides of any kind. Most of these kill our pollinators, too.
- Grow more flowers. Most flowers produce pollen and nectar, which feed bees and butterflies.
- If you can, grow flowering plants native to Maryland. They are more nutritious and support specialist bees and butterflies that can only feed on a few plants.

### Full Sun, Part Sun - Dry

- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
  - 1-2' w/ yellow flowers
  - Groundcover
  - Host for swallowtail butterfly caterpillars
- Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
  - 2-5' w/ white flowers
  - Groundcover
  - A favorite of native bumblebees
- Wild Bergamot (*Monarda bradburiana*)
  - 1-5' w/ pink flowers
  - Summer interest
  - Leaves smell like mint when crushed
- Zig-Zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
  - 1-4' w/ yellow flowers
  - Late season interest
  - Host plant for many native insects

### Full Sun, Part Sun - Wet

- Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)
  - 0.5-2' w/ yellow flowers
  - Groundcover
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
  - 4-6' w/ pink flowers
  - Host for monarch butterflies

## How can we create native gardens?

- Reduce your lawn and fill that space with native plants. Lawn maintenance generates many types of pollution, and lawns are essentially “ecological dead zones.” No native wildlife derives food or shelter from a turf lawn.
- Learn your native plants. We have provided a short list below to get you started. Visit [nativeplantcenter.net](http://nativeplantcenter.net) for more native plants.

### Part Sun, Shade - Dry

- Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
  - 3'-6' w/ large white or pink flowers
  - Our native hibiscus flower
- New England Aster (*Sympyotrichum novae-angliae*)
  - 1-6' w/ purple flowers
  - Late season interest
  - Forms a huge mount of flowers

### Part Sun, Shade - Dry

- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
  - 1-2' w/ yellow flowers
  - Groundcover
  - Host for swallowtail butterfly caterpillars
- Creeping Phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*)
  - 0.5-1.5' w/ purple flowers
  - Groundcover
- Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*)
  - 3' w/ white-purple flowers
  - Attracts a wide variety of pollinators all summer
- White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*)
  - 0.5-3' w/ white flowers
  - Late season interest

### Part Sun, Shade - Wet

- Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
  - 0.5-1' w/ white flowers
  - Groundcover
  - Showy early flowers
- Wild Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*)
  - 2' w/ pink flowers
  - Blooms most of the growing season
- Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
  - 1-4' w/ purple flowers
  - Summer interest
- Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
  - 2-6" w/ yellow flowers
  - Late season interest

### All Sites

- Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)
  - 1-3' grass
  - Can grow alone in bunches to shelter wildlife or companion with tall meadow plants
  - Dark red winter interest

**Support small growers and dedicated native nurseries. A list of reputable plant sales and nurseries can be found at [mdflora.org/nurseries.html](http://mdflora.org/nurseries.html).**