

Help for Habitats: Grass with Wildflowers

Leaving some grassland uncut during spring and summer, then mowing on a high cut and removing cut grass and wildflowers is important because:

- Less disturbed grassland is good for soil animals & therefore soil structure, carbon capture & storage, water retention & urban cooling.
- Removing cut grass stops nutrients returning to the soil which allows a greater variety of wildflowers to thrive.
- Wildflowers provide pollen and nectar for pollinators.
- Long grass & wildflowers provide:
 - food & shelter for many invertebrates e.g. grasshoppers, declining butterflies & moths and their caterpillars.
 - opportunities for predatory insects and other invertebrates.
- Wild lawns provide foraging opportunities and shelter for larger animals e.g. hedgehogs, toads and frogs.
- Invertebrates and seeds in long grass are food for birds.
- Grassland insects which fly at night are food for bats.
- Wild verges can link green spaces.

To find out more see Plantlife's website at:

<https://meadows.plantlife.org.uk>



Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it supplies are in crisis and we all need to help!

- Ask for some of your local park, school grounds, boundaries of sports grounds and road verges to be managed as wildflower meadow.
- If you have a garden, let part of your lawn grow long in summer.
- Say 'Yes' to LBB's Nature Friendly Verges in the survey at: Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/naturefriendlyverges>
- Contact your Local Councillors to ask for Nature Friendly Verges where you live.