

Shrink the Lawn, Plant for Pollinators!

May 2023

Pollinators play vital roles in our ecosystems. They are responsible for the reproduction of three-quarters of the world's wild plants and one third of our agricultural crops. Pollinators support flowering trees, shrubs and flowers which provide food and shelter for wildlife and humans alike.

In addition to honeybees, Boulder County has over 562 species of wild bees plus thousands of species of moths, butterflies, and other insect pollinators that require diverse and abundant floral resources. A primary cause of pollinator decline is the decreasing availability of biodiverse habitat due to simplified urban landscapes, such as turf grass lawns. Monoculture lawns lack floral resources for pollinators, require valuable, limited resources, like water, for support and often use fertilizers and herbicides that can cause further decline in pollinators species.

Alternatives to turf grass include trees, shrubs and flowers which create a more diverse landscape and provide habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Planting native wildflowers that flower in spring can also provide important nectar and pollen for pollinators emerging from winter. These turf grass alternatives reduce the noise and pollution associated with maintaining lawns while creating a more resilient landscape using less water, sequestering CO₂, and helping to lessen the effects of our warming climate.

The City of Boulder recognizes the importance of raising awareness across our community about the value in reducing monoculture lawns and creating biodiverse habitats to protect and support the pollinating insects who are vital to our ecosystems and our way of life. City Departments will continue to utilize best practices for where and when to mow and to grow more diverse plantings to encourage pollinator and wildlife friendly landscapes.

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declare May as the month to

Shrink the Lawn, Plant for Pollinators!

To encourage people to reduce or eliminate monoculture lawns, plant a diversity of native plants, shrubs and trees and to discontinue the use of chemical treatments to create more biodiverse habitats and healthy ecosystems for all pollinators, wildlife and humans.



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

