

# It's for Them

## Changing mowing to save wildlife



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

### Why are we leaving the grass to grow?

Long grass is better for wildlife than closely mown, regularly cut grass. Our wildlife is declining and we need to act now to save it. 1 in 6 species assessed in Wales is at risk of extinction. We are in a nature emergency.

### How will this support wildlife?

Wildflowers and grasses provide food for insects and shelter to complete their life cycles. Cutting less often allows wildflowers to grow. Insects pollinate the flowers to produce seeds for the following year. Small birds like finches eat the seeds. Mammals like bats, field mice and hedgehogs eat the plants and invertebrates such as earthworms, bugs and other insects. Kestrels, buzzards and barn owls hunt small mammals, and swallows and swifts feed on insects. Amphibians and reptiles, like frogs and toads, slow-worms and lizards, also eat invertebrates. A typical natural meadow can support more than 1,400 species of invertebrates and many other plants and animals.

### Why are pollinators important?

Pollinators pollinate many farmed crops that we eat. They pollinate wild plants to produce seeds, fruits and nuts which birds and mammals eat. They are an essential part of food production. Many wild pollinators are in decline, mainly due to loss of habitat. Pollinators need flowers to feed from, places to live and lay eggs, and shelter for their young to develop. Honey bees are also pollinators. They are largely a farmed species in Wales and are not in decline.

### Why are meadows good for people?

Connecting with wildlife benefits our health and mental wellbeing, making us feel calmer, happier and more focused. Creating more meadow-like areas allows us to experience nature day by day.

### Why does it look untidy?

Meadow-like areas with long grass have an informal natural beauty. After the flowering season, areas can start to look tired as plants put their energy into seeds for next year's wildflowers. These areas still have vital importance for pollinators, other insects, birds and mammals like hedgehogs.

### Which wildflowers might I find?

To begin learning the names of the wildflowers you will see popping up in grasslands during the spring and summer, 'Nature Isn't Neat' has made a guide to some of the most important wildflowers for pollinators.

Download their guide here: [www.monlife.co.uk](http://www.monlife.co.uk)

### For more information contact:

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