

Gardeners urged not to cut the grass

5th May, 2022



A charity in the U.K. is urging people not to cut the grass in their garden. When spring arrives, many gardeners mow their lawn. The call to not do this is part of a project called "No Mow May". It is to help flowers grow wild and insects breed. No Mow May

is a campaign to promote biodiversity. It is from the charity Plantlife. The charity is also asking people to count the types and number of wild flowers in their garden. Plantlife says leaving the grass uncut creates a habitat that will help "our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us". Bees are an essential part of nature as they pollinate flowers. Cutting the grass means there are fewer flowers for bees to work their natural magic.

A spokesperson for Plantlife said garden lawns have the potential to be "biodiversity hotspots". Last year, the charity found over 250 species of plants on people's lawns. These included wild strawberry and wild garlic. Plantlife wants people to value wild lawns more. It said people would get a nice, colourful surprise if they did not cut their grass. One gardener spoke to the BBC about the joy of wild gardens. He said people care too much about having a neat garden and use too many chemicals. He believes not mowing the lawn lets people "reconnect with the natural world". Plantlife agreed. It said a wild garden "makes you feel like you're somewhere tropical instead of your own garden".

Sources:
bbc.com / cambridgeindependent.co.uk / plantlife.org

Writing

A wild and natural lawn is better than a neat, cut lawn Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

charity / cut the grass / garden / gardener / flowers / biodiversity / bees / butterflies / plants / strawberry / garlic / surprise / neat / chemicals / the natural world / tropical

True / False

- 1) A charity in the U.K. has banned people from cutting their grass. T / F
- 2) There is a campaign in the U.K. called "May Not Mow". T / F
- 3) A campaign in the U.K. is trying to promote biodiversity. T / F
- 4) A charity said not cutting the grass helps us. T / F
- 5) A charity said spots in the U.K. are too hot for biodiversity. T / F
- 6) Every garden in the U.K. has more than 250 plant species in it. T / F
- 7) A gardener said people are too concerned with neat gardens. T / F
- 8) Many wild gardens in the U.K. are tropical. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. urging | a. reproduce |
| 2. mow | b. happiness |
| 3. breed | c. important |
| 4. habitat | d. cut |
| 5. essential | e. appreciate |
| 6. potential | f. very hot |
| 7. value | g. encouraging |
| 8. joy | h. tidy |
| 9. neat | i. ability |
| 10. tropical | j. natural environment |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important are gardens?
- b) What should gardens look like?
- c) Is a cut lawn or a wild lawn best?
- d) How important is grass in a garden?
- e) What gardens do you see every day?
- f) What do you think of the No Mow May project?
- g) What 'natural magic' do bees perform?
- h) What advice do you have for gardeners?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. When spring arrives, many | a. species of plants |
| 2. It is to help flowers grow wild and insects | b. natural magic |
| 3. a campaign to promote | c. biodiversity hotspots |
| 4. help our bees, butterflies, wildlife | d. with the natural world |
| 5. fewer flowers for bees to work their | e. breed |
| 6. garden lawns have the potential to be | f. and us |
| 7. the charity found over 250 | g. tropical |
| 8. people care too much about having a | h. gardeners mow their lawn |
| 9. reconnect | i. neat garden |
| 10. feel like you're somewhere | j. biodiversity |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How can gardens be 'biodiversity hotspots'?
- What are the benefits of neatly cut lawns?
- How do you connect with nature?
- Why do people use chemicals on gardens?
- Should we study gardening at school?
- What wildlife is there in your garden?
- What questions would you like to ask gardeners?

Spelling

- A hatircy in the U.K.
- help flowers grow wild and insects erbde
- a campaign to tprmoeo biodiversity
- Bees are an etaisslne part
- they nopilelta flowers
- bees to work their untlraa magic
- garden lawns have the tlaotepin
- These ndulciéd wild strawberry
- over 250 esspice of plants
- a nice, colourful rpisrseu
- use too many scealimch
- feel like you're somewhere aolprtíc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. e	8. b	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Garden Lawns

You think garden lawns are the best use of grass. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): tennis courts, food production or children's parks.

Role B – Tennis Courts

You think tennis courts are the best use of grass. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): garden lawns, food production or children's parks.

Role C – Food Production

You think food production is the best use of grass. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): tennis courts, garden lawns or children's parks.

Role D – Children's Parks

You think children's parks are the best use of grass. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): tennis courts, food production or garden lawns.

Speaking – Uses of Grass

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Children's park | • Garden lawn |
| • Meadow | • Tennis court |
| • Food production | • Soccer pitch |
| • Paper production | • Golf course green |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 F	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.