



## Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, May 2023

### GET A FREE "NO MOW MAY" SIGN DESIGNED BY ASHFORD SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS!!

Ashford School Third Graders, in collaboration with Ashford Pollinator Pathway, are encouraging everyone to participate in **No Mow May** by not mowing their yards until June as a way to help pollinators. The "weeds" that grow in our lawns – clover, dandelions, violets – bloom before summer flowers and are an important early food source for pollinators & birds feeding on insects.



Melinda Macdonald spoke with third grade students about No Mow May & they had a chance to grow clover for their own lawns. The students then designed **FREE YARD SIGNS** for Ashford households participating in No Mow May. Help spread the word by signing up to get one of these beautiful lawn signs designed by our own students at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJc-PiYGhGJ2cLNLHm-3a7Lq8x0k6bSEDASxK7mg5s-AFGg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJc-PiYGhGJ2cLNLHm-3a7Lq8x0k6bSEDASxK7mg5s-AFGg/viewform?usp=sf_link) (if you'd prefer to get the link via an email, reach out to us at the email below)

We've put together an assortment of **Native Plant Seed Packets** available for **FREE** at the Babcock Library. If you'd prefer established plants, look for the brand "**American Beauties Native Plants**" grown by Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon, CT. A limited selection of American Beauties plants can be found at our very own **Ashford Garden Center**, 330 Ashford Center Rd ([Ashfordgardencenter@gmail.com](mailto:Ashfordgardencenter@gmail.com); 860-429-



0854). Other local nurseries that carry them are Foster Hill Farm (Stafford), Sprucedale Gardens (Woodstock), Ladd's (South Windsor) & Mackey's (Willimantic). If you don't see a specific native plant, ask the nursery if they can order it for you. Email us for a list of local/regional nurseries with

more extensive native plant selections

Would you like to get more involved with Ashford Pollinator Pathway? Have you already registered with Pathway and want a free medallion courtesy of Ashford Conservation Commission? How about a tour of a native plant garden? Need advice on what to plant or when to mow a wildflower meadow? Email: [AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com](mailto:AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com)

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/AshfordPollinatorPathway>

## Calendar

**5/13 -- RI's Wild Plant Society's Early Native Plant Sale** in Saunderstown, RI, featuring Spring ephemerals. Their larger plant sale is on **June 3** in Kingston RI. <https://riwps.org/native-plant-sales/>

**5/13 -- Quiet Corner Garden Club Plant Sale**, Woodstock Fairgrounds, 9AM-noon. <https://quietcornergardenclub.com/>

**6/3-6/4 -- Grow Native Massachusetts Plant Sale**, 240 Beaver St, Waltham, MA. Must register in advance, see info at: <https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/plant-sale>

**6/10 & 6/11, 10AM-5PM -- Annual Local Art and Garden Tour.** The tour is free and self-guided. Map and info at their website: <https://artgardenct.com>



Ashford PP will once again host a table at the **Ashford Arts Council summer event at Westford Hill Distillers** (Date TBA). We will have info and free native plant seedlings to give away at this event. Stay tuned for more info.



**We've started an online Ashford Pollinator Pathway Newsletter!** Email us if you'd like to be added to our distribution list