

PRESS RELEASE

**“Give Dandelions a Chance!” – Public Urged to Rethink Wildflowers, as
Plantlife Launches No Mow May**

*Conservation charity calls on the UK to pause the mow, **give power to the flowers** and bring nature closer to home for **#NoMowMay***

As Plantlife kicks off its annual **No Mow May** campaign, new survey data on peoples’ attitudes towards garden plants reveals that many still regard wildflowers as weeds – overlooking their benefits for wildlife and biodiversity.

Dandelions remain the most unpopular garden flower, with over half of UK adults (56%) considering them weeds.

However, Generation Z show a more appreciative stance; over 90% of 16–24-year-olds recognise daisies and buttercups as wildflowers, not weeds, and one in six believe they can add to a garden’s charm—a promising sign of growing nature connection.

Nicola Hutchinson, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Conservation, Plantlife, said:

“It’s time to rethink wildflowers – they aren’t weeds, they are unsung heroes of the natural world. Key to garden ecosystems, wildflowers support pollinators, insects and even birds, playing an important role in the food chains for wildlife.

“With over 23 million gardens in the UK, using No Mow May as the starting point for relaxing mowing through the whole summer – can deliver big wins for plants, pollinators, people and the planet.”

Around a third of the UK mow their lawn twice a month during May – the same time many flowers are starting to bloom. **No Mow May**, Plantlife’s nationwide campaign, urges people in cities, towns and the countryside to ditch the mow – starting in May and continuing into the summer – to support nature.

The campaign, now in its seventh year, shows how accommodating different aesthetic tastes by creating different zones – functional short turf, framed and flanked by meadow features like perennial herbaceous borders or flowering lawn – can provide a pollinator banquet through spring and summer and bring nature closer to home.

Sarah Shuttleworth, Specialist Botanical Advisor, Plantlife added:

“If you struggle dealing with long grass, even a reduction in mowing to once a month throughout the summer can boost lawn biodiversity. If you don’t have a garden, a yard or balcony can become a mini haven for plants and pollinators. Enjoying wilder patches – even in just a section of your garden – can do wonders to support wildlife.”

No Mow May has seen growing momentum. In 2024, a third (33%) of sign-ups were first-time participants, showing the movement continues to reach new audiences.

The campaign also champions wildlife-friendly management of public spaces - grassland on road verges, in open spaces and parks - in ways that benefit biodiversity and the climate.

Mark Schofield, Road Verges and Green Spaces Advisor at Plantlife, said:

“Changing the way we manage grassland creates space for nature, while still meeting community needs. It reimagines road verges as wildlife corridors, supporting biodiversity and helping to build climate resilience, while keeping roadsides safe.”

Plantlife is encouraging people to give **power to the flowers** this summer and see an array of plant species in their gardens, including yellow rattle, common birds'-foot trefoil, field forget-me-not, white clover, common mouse-ear, selfheal, cowslips, wild orchids, field scabious and knapweed. Lawns with the highest number of wildflowers are those which have patches of various grass lengths.

Celebrating longer grass will invite a whole world of wildlife into your garden:

- Burnet Moth cocoons form on the flowering stems of long grasses where the bright and colourful day flying moth emerges
- Nursery Web Spiders weave shimmering dew-filled webs in tall blades
- Grasshoppers, whose chorus defines the sound of British summer evenings, need a longer grass structure to call home.
- Waxcap fungi like the Blackening Waxcap AKA Witches' Hat can flourish in unfertilised, mossy lawns.

Take part in **No Mow May** and join thousands of households letting nature take the lead. For tips, resources, and how to sign up, visit: www.plantlife.org.uk/nomowmay

#NoMowMay #NoMowMayAndBeyond #FlowerPower #BritishWildflowers

Notes to editors:

Images and video available for use with credit:

[Images – Dropbox](#)

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Online Survey conducted with Opinion Matters on + 2,000 UK adults, March 2025.

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About Plantlife:

Plantlife is the global charity working to enhance, protect, restore and celebrate the wild plants and fungi that are essential to all life on earth. With two in five plant species at risk of extinction, biodiversity loss is now the fastest it's ever been and Plantlife's work has never been more vital. Plantlife champions and accelerates conservation action, working at the heart of a global network of individuals and organisations, to influence and inspire landowners and land managers, public and private bodies, governments and local communities. As time begins to run out, Plantlife's position as the global voice for wild plants and fungi will help to bring lasting and positive change to our natural world – for everyone's sake.