



-- SPRING 2025 --

Reminders

Styrofoam (EPS) Recycling

July 26, 2025

September 27, 2025

January 3, 2026

Recycling Center

9 am to 1 pm

[Click here to learn more](#)



Recycling Questions?
Check Out the [Waldwick Recycling Guide](#)

To learn more about Slow Mow Summer and/or the Environmental Advisory Committee, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone [Waldwick Environmental Advisory Committee](#)



SCAN ME



Environmental News



--- Introducing ---

SLOW MOW SUMMER



Slow Mow Summer is a new lawn care approach that encourages homeowners to manage their lawns as "pollinator lawns." Such lawns are mowed less frequently in Spring, Summer, and Fall to support pollinating insect populations that contribute to our overall ecosystem. It's a revision to "No Mow May," an informal initiative from several years ago. Slow Mow Summer is completely voluntary and advocates for maintaining slightly taller grass (6") and allowing low-growing flowering plants, such as clover and violets, to bloom during the growing season. Landowners adopting these beneficial practices have a more sustainable lawn and contribute to a healthier environment while saving money and time on lawn care. By everyone doing a bit less, we all get more.

How does it work?

Studies show that limiting mowing to about once every two weeks during the growing season can support pollinators and the natural food chain. This schedule is best achieved by setting the mower blade height at 4" and mow when grass is 6" tall. (If 3.5" is your mower's highest setting, mow when grass reaches 5.25"). This allows low-growing flowering plants such as Dutch White Clover, Self-heal, and Creeping Thyme to thrive and bloom within the grass while presenting a regular lawn appearance. Avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides is

also necessary. This practice assumes that most lawns have some populations of low-growing flowering native plants. 100% turf grass lawns previously maintained to be "weed-free" would initially offer few benefits to pollinators regardless of mowing frequency. After a few years, low-growing flowering plants would naturally become more widespread. Overseeding an existing lawn with these flowering plants would speed up the transition.

What are the benefits?

- ✓ **Less mowing**
 - Less noise & pollution from gas-powered mowers & blowers
- ✓ **Less watering**
 - Taller grass has deeper roots so it is more drought-tolerant
- ✓ **Less fertilizer**
 - Clover provides natural fertilizer because it can "fix" atmospheric nitrogen within its roots. Grass and other plants can use this nitrogen.
- ✓ **No need for pesticides & herbicides**
 - These chemicals will harm pollinators and the plants they rely on.
- ✓ **Supports our local environment**
 - We will have more butterflies, native bees & other beneficial insects. NJ has over 350 species of native bees. These bees

are not honeybees, they do not live in hives and normally do not sting

- ✓ **More birds**
 - Many birds eat insects
- ✓ **Better water quality in local streams**
 - Less pesticide & fertilizer will be in stormwater runoff

Are there any negatives?

Not everyone appreciates flowers growing in their lawns, as some see these as undesirable weeds. That is OK, since this is completely voluntary. No one is required to do this. If you're not sure about Slow Mow Summer, keep your front lawn as you wish but consider trying this out in the backyard.

Free Lawn Signs!

Waldwick has small yard signs available to all residents participating in Slow Mow Summer. Stop by the Borough Clerk's office to pick one up.

