



Tales from the Greenhouse, #4

History Through a Horticultural Lens

Edition #4 May 2022

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What is No Mow May?

By Matthew Martin

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No Mow May is a horticultural practice where you pledge not to mow an area of your lawn for the entire month of May.

The gardening staff at Glen Magna Farms takes pride in the many sustainable gardening practices that we implement on the property. Since 2020, the gardening staff only mows the priority areas of the Glen Magna Farms for the month of May. Most of the property is left alone until early June.



By not mowing for the month, we are feeding our pollinators, supporting nesting birds and reducing our carbon footprint. For example, mowing with a typical American lawn mower for one hour is equivalent to driving a car over 400 miles. This also saves the staff many hours of labor and allows them to attend to other projects in the garden.

“No Mow May” is not for everyone and is sometimes not practical in every situation. Although, we encourage you to take the pledge of “No Mow May” next spring. Even if it’s just a small area at the back of your property.



We invite you to witness the beautiful results of “No Mow May” before we start our regularly scheduled mowing practice in early June. The gardening staff has kindly mowed paths throughout the back edges of our property for your walking convenience.

It’s fun to see how many wildflowers and birds you can spot in these areas. This season we have had an eruption of spring wildflowers. Trilliums, wild strawberry, sedges and buttercups are in full bloom. We also have had many bird sightings, including orioles, song sparrows, phoebes and the fascinating scarlet tanager. Additionally, we have witnessed blue birds nesting in our apple orchard this spring. ☺

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