POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE protects and restores pollinators for a healthy environment and to sustain the food supply.

Change Through Community
NATIVE WILD BEES
WHY DO WE NEED POLLINATORS?

85% of our beautiful natural world and ecosystem relies on wild pollinators.

2/3rd’s of our food crops rely on pollinators.
WILD BEE ABUNDANCE ACROSS THE U.S.
Three major causes of decline:

- Synergistic affects of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides
- Lack of food, habitat loss & toxicity
- Diseases & parasites
HABITAT LOSS IN THE CITY

- Turfgrass dominant
- Hard surfaces
- Overly groomed
- Roadsides often sprayed or mowed
TURF GRASS
Largest irrigated crop in the US
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAWN

• From “launde” meaning glade or opening.
• Became a symbol of wealth in 16th Century Britain and France
  • although seeded with Chamomile and Thyme
  • only the wealthy could afford to have lawn cut by hand
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAWN

One of four different styles of the Jubilee

One of four different styles of the Levittowner

Levittown IN 1957

One of five different styles of the Pennsylvanian

One of four different styles of the Country Clubber
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAWN

• Mass Produced Lawn Mowers
• Weed Free Seeds with spreaders
• Pesticides, Fertilizers
  • 2,4-D to kill broadleaf weeds
THE HEAVY COST OF LAWN CARE

In roughly the last 65 years we have gone from clover being an acceptable lawn to 40.5 million acres of lawn.

32 million acres is irrigated.
• more irrigated lawn than irrigated corn in US

Water use:
• 9 billion gallons/day

Fertilizer use:
• 3 million tons/year

Pesticide use:
• 30,000 tons/year

Gasoline use:
• 800 millions gallons/year
  • gas spilled re-filling lawn mowers
  • 17 million gallons/year
HOW CAN YOU HELP?
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Have a “not so tidy” garden, leave your garden up for the winter until native bees have a chance to emerge.
HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

Bare Ground
HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

Dead plant material
HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS
Decomposing matter
HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

Water Source
BEE LAWN HOW-TO
Let it happen
BEE LAWN

Mowing Techniques
BEE LAWN
Mowing Techniques
BEE LAWN
Mowing Techniques
BEE LAWN
Mowed “Maintenance” Paths
BEE LAWN – 4 Components
Fine Fescue
BEE LAWN
Prunella vulgaris – Self Heal
BEE LAWN
Thymus serpyllum - Thyme
BEE LAWN
Trifolium repens - White Dutch Clover
BEE LAWN
Overseeding existing lawn

• Scalp lawn to within 1”
• Rough-up soil with rake
  – Or aerate
• Seed with 3 flower species OR
• Seed with flowers and fescue
BEE LAWN
Seeding new lawn

• Remove turf
  – Techniques:
    • Sod cutter
    • Smothering
    • Herbicide (not recommended)
• Seed with fescue and flower species
BEE LAWN
Seeding and care

• Mix seed with an organic fertilizer such as Sustane or Milorganite.
  – Example: 10 lbs Sustane (4-4-4)/1000 sf
• Water daily, if no rain, for 2 weeks
  – After germination, no additional water (unless an unusual dry spell) or fertilizer needed
• Mow at 3” or higher infrequently to encourage flowers.
BEE LAWN

Seed sources and seeding rates

• Self Heal (Prunella vulgaris)
  – 3.6 oz (7.5 Tbs)/1000 sf
  – www.silverfallsseed.com

• Creeping Thyme (Thymus serpyllum)
  – 1 oz (2 Tbs)/1000 sf
  – www.outsidepride.com

• White Dutch Clover (Trifolium repens)
  – 3.2 oz (7 Tbs)/1000 sf
  – Available at garden centers (Houles Farm Store)

• Fine Fescue (available at garden centers)
  – 4 lbs/1000 sf