

# HOW TO CREATE A BEE LAWN



## WHAT IS A BEE LAWN?

Urban habitat is crucial for pollinator survival and currently traditional lawns or turf dominate the urban environment. Traditional lawns provide no food for pollinators. A bee lawn is a flowering carpet of low growing fescues and flowering plants with the appearance of a traditional lawn that will stay low, require very little mowing, take heavy foot traffic, and is drought tolerant.

## FOR EXISTING LAWNS:

In Early Spring:

- Mow or scalp existing lawn very low to 1”.
- Over seed with White Dutch Clover, Self-Heal, and Thyme.
- Cover lightly with straw or if necessary (sloped areas) with a straw erosion blanket and water well.
- Keep watered daily until germination occurs – then water weekly until established.
- After establishment for first season, water during dry spells.

## FOR NEW LAWNS:

- Kill existing vegetation (non chemical methods preferred).
- Till or otherwise loosen soil.
- Seed with seed mix below.
- Cover lightly with straw or if necessary (sloped areas) with a straw erosion blanket and water well.
- Keep watered daily until germination occurs – then water weekly until established.
- After establishment for first season, water during dry spells.

## STANDARD SEED MIX:

- Fescue grass such as Low-Mow fescue, chewings fescue, hard fescue and creeping red fescue
- White Dutch Clover (*Trifolium repens*)
- Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)
- Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Mow only when needed. Avoid mowing in early spring until pollinators emerge, and in September when pollinators are starting to nest for winter. Avoid mowing when flowering to attain as much forage as possible. Over-seeding in subsequent seasons may be necessary to achieve desired flower/grass ratio.

~Special Thanks to Ian Lane of the University of Minnesota Bee Lab~



The **POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE** protects and restores pollinators to improve the environment and sustain our food supply through education, increasing habitat, and reducing pesticides. [www.pollinatorfriendly.org](http://www.pollinatorfriendly.org)