

# Take a closer look at... LAWNS

Lawns can provide space for us to relax and be good for wildlife.

We can help wildlife by allowing some grass to grow in small areas, reducing the number of times we mow and adjusting the height of mower blade.

Daisies, dandelions and clover, which can appear if grass is left to grow, are all important for pollinators. The seeds of grass, plantain, buttercup and dandelion are great food sources for seed eaters.

Even tightly mown grass on old lawns, if left unfertilised and clippings removed, can be interesting – bright waxcap fungi can appear. Birds will feed on worms and grubs in short grass.

- Some of the earliest lawns were the grasslands around medieval castles in France and Britain, kept clear so guards had a clear view of approaching visitors.
- Closely cut lawns first emerged in the 17th century around large houses. Only the rich could afford to hire people to scythe and weed the grass. By the late 1800s the mass production of lawnmowers changed all that!
- A dandelion flower consists of up to 100 florets, each one packed with nectar and pollen. This source of food is a lifesaver for pollinators in spring.
- The daisy flower follows the sun. Closing at night, and opening during the day, it is thought that this is how it got its name the “day’s eye” – daisy.

Visit **RSPB** for more on managing lawns for wildlife and the **Council's website** for more on how you can manage lawns for wildlife.



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