




# Spring Gardening For Happy Pollinators




During winter, pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects, find shelter in fallen leaves, dry stems, and in the ground, making it crucial to preserve them until hibernating is over. By postponing spring cleaning, we give insects the chance to thrive and contribute to our ecosystem.

## When to start spring Cleanup?



**1** You are done wearing your winter woollies.  
If you're bundled up in mittens and wool socks, it's too early to start spring cleaning your garden.


**The snow shovel is put away.**  
If there's a chance of snow and frost, hold off on disturbing your invertebrate neighbors who need cold weather shelter.



**3** You would plant tomatoes.  
Just like you wouldn't plant tomatoes until evening temperatures are reliably in the 50s, wait until conditions are favorable for pollinators to be active.

**The lawn is growing tall.**

When your grass is growing enough to justify regular mowing, most pollinators have already emerged. Also, delaying mowing provides habitat and forage for early season pollinators.



**5** You paid your taxes.  
Mid-late April is the earliest you should consider cutting back perennials and clearing garden debris.

**The apples and pears are done blooming.**  
Wait until apple and pear trees are no longer in bloom to avoid disturbing pollinators that emerge later in the season.

*To provide homes for bees and native insects, when pruning woody perennials or shrubs, prune the stems to 12-15" from the ground and leave the hollow stems attached to the plants for at least two years*

### Brookline Pollinator Pathway

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<https://brooklinepp.wixsite.com/brooklinepp>



### Resources:

<https://xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon>

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/rethink-your-yard>

<https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/2021/04/the-right-way-to-leave-stems-for-native-bees/>

