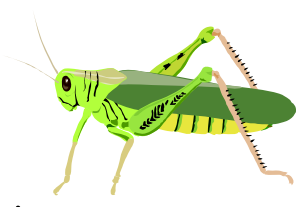
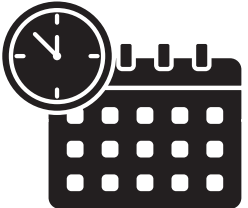


URBAN MEADOW AND VERGE GUIDELINES

HOW YOU CAN HELP TACKLE THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS



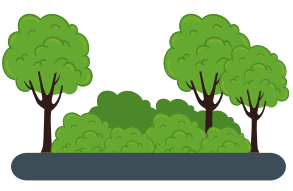
1. Mow less frequently (twice a year)



- Mow once between Feb–March, then leave flowers for spring pollinators.
- Mow once between Sep–Oct, so flowers have time to set seed & insects such as leafhoppers can complete their lifecycles.
- Remove grass cuttings to reduce soil fertility, so that wildflowers grow rather than just grass.
- Leave cuttings on-site in a habitat pile to help insect larvae & eggs survive.
- Piles of cuttings (grass & branches) are great homes for wildlife such as lizards, grass snakes & hedgehogs.



2. Leave refuges of long grass and shrubs



- Leave 10%–20% as an uncut refuge of tall grass & flowers. This helps insects & spiders complete their lifecycle, as larvae & eggs overwinter in dead vegetation like seedheads & hollow stems.
- Leave 10% as shrub cover (mixed UK species e.g., hawthorn, bramble & blackthorn) to ensure food & nesting sites for wildlife.
- Cut the tall grass & trim the shrubs every 3–5 years on rotation, to stop shrubs from taking over.
- Having a mix of vegetation heights & leaving dead wood in place supports many species, & is good for biodiversity.
- Mow towards the refuge to help wildlife such as insects, frogs & voles to escape.

3. Engage with local people



- Explain what you are trying to do, e.g., with signs, & address any concerns.
- A mown edge or path shows intent, & that the area is cared for.

