



    
your yard  
**CAN BEE**  
the **CHANGE**  
#Lawns2Legumes

# Spring 2024 Grantee Kick-off Event

## Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

How to successfully plant for pollinators,  
complete a grant, and get reimbursed



 **BOARD OF WATER  
AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER®

  
**Metro  
Blooms**  
GROW. BLOOM. INSPIRE!

# Who We Are



## Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

BWSR focuses on helping private landowners enhance conservation practices on their land to achieve state goals for clean water, clean air, and abundant fish and wildlife.



## Blue Thumb — Planting for Clean Water

A public/private partnership helping property owners reduce runoff and improve water quality. Blue Thumb partners include cities, watershed districts, landscape designers, contractors and native plant nurseries.



## Metro Blooms

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization promoting gardening, beautifying our communities, and healing our environment since 1983. Metro Blooms coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership.

# Meet today's presenters and project team:



## **Dan Shaw**

Minnesota Board of Water and Soils Resources  
Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist

## **Alexandra Zerzan**

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms  
Lawns to Legumes & Special Projects Manager

## **Megan Reich**

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms  
Communications & Program Manager

## **John Bly**

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms  
Director of Operations & Special Projects

# Lawns to Legumes



Building a movement to protect Minnesota's pollinators  
(Program Started June 2019)



**Funding Sources:**  
Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,  
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Minnesota General Fund

**Program Focus:**  
Establish pollinator habitat projects on residential landscapes across Minnesota to support the rusty patched bumblebee and other pollinators.



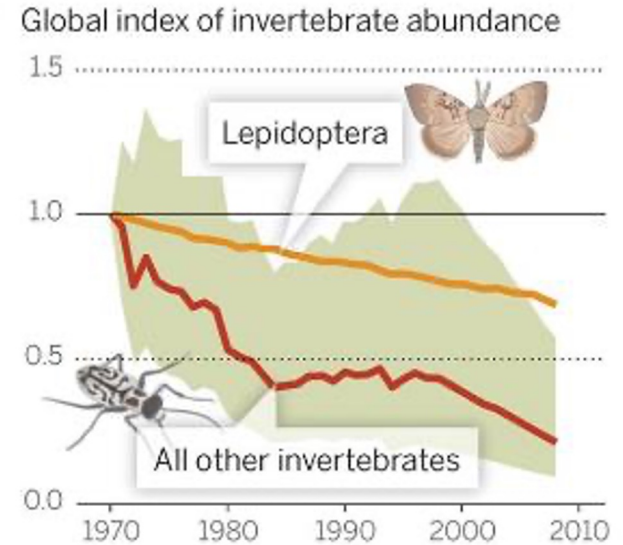
# Why Native Plants?



# Why Native Plants?

## Conservation Challenges

- Recent research shows significant declines in insects across the world—more than 40% of insect species are declining.
- Insects make up the base of the food web and are critical for many other forms of life.
- **Native plants support insects.**



# Our New State Bee

## Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*)

- Populations of the rusty patched bumble bee have declined more than 80% in 20 years!
- **Listed as an Endangered Species in 2017**
- **Named Minnesota State Bee in 2019**

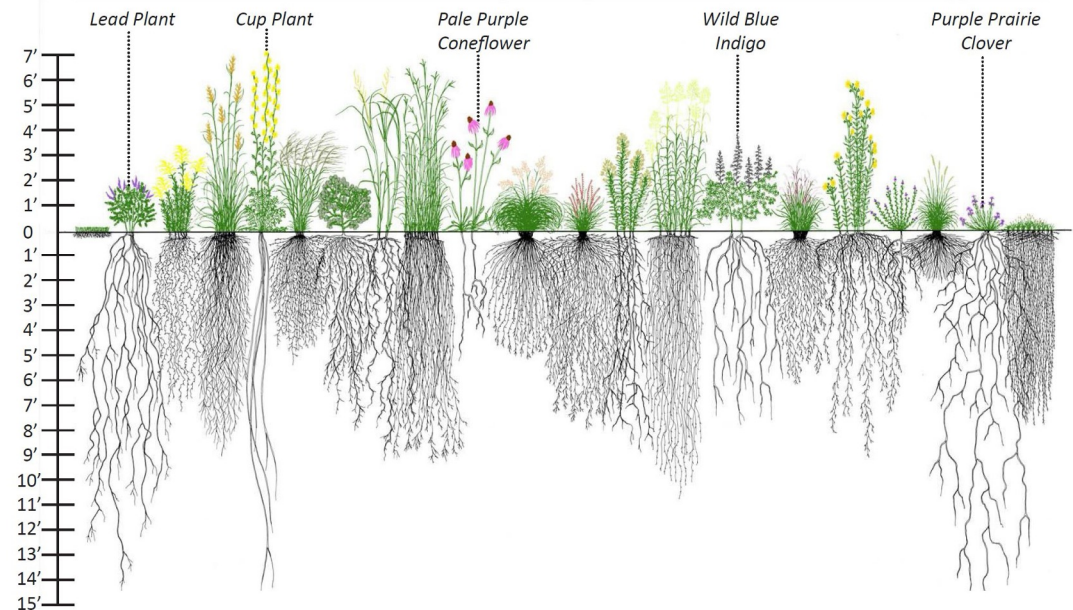


### Bumble Bees Need:

- Nesting areas/shelter
- Food: Blooming native flowers throughout the growing season
- Protection chemicals, insecticides and fungicides.
- Connected, high quality habitat to increase foraging and reproductive success

# Other Benefits of Native Plants

- Support soil health and stabilize soil
- Increased stormwater capture
- Provide food for pollinators
- Create wildlife habitat
- Resilient to drought + environmental challenges
- Beautify our communities!





# Why Native Plants?

IMPORTANT: Cultivars/Nativars and hybrids are not reimbursed by Lawns to Legumes. These are genetically modified for aesthetics or other traits and provide limited nutrition to pollinators.

## Native plants vs cultivars/hybrids

### Identifying cultivars

- Cultivars usually have single quotes around their name
- Hybrids have an "X" in their name
- Check the plant tag! Look for whimsical names
- Shop at a native plant nursery instead of a chain store

### Examples of cultivars/hybrids

- Gaillardia 'Spintop Orange Halo'
- Spintop Orange Halo Blanket Flower
- Gaillardia X grandiflora



**Native**  
Butterfly Weed  
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



**Cultivar**  
'Cinderella'  
Butterfly Flower  
cultivar of Swamp Milkweed  
(*Asclepias incarnata*)

# Why Native Plants?

## MN Native



*Echinacea angustifolia*  
Narrow-leaved Purple  
Coneflower



*Aquilegia canadensis*  
Columbine



*Physocarpus opulifolius*  
Ninebark

## Not Native or Cultivar



*Echinacea purpurea*  
Eastern Purple Coneflower



*Aquilegia* 'Swan Blue  
and White'



*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May'  
Little Devil™ Ninebark

# The Lawns to Legumes Program: Three Components



Two types  
of grants

## Public Education and Outreach Campaign

Goal: To work with a network of partners across the state in creating and sharing resources for DIY pollinator habitat projects

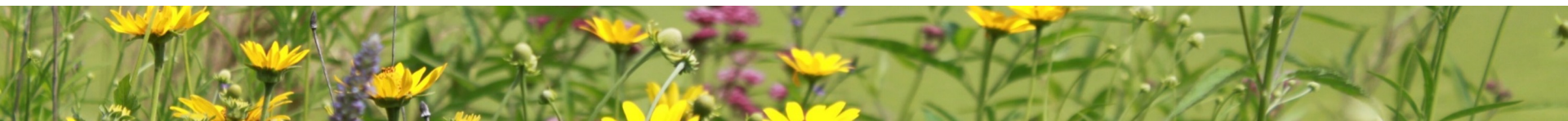
## Pollinator Pathways

Goal: To provide grants of \$20,000-\$40,000 to build pollinator corridors in partnership with local communities

## Individual Resident Support:

Goal: To provide grants of \$400 to individual residents to install pollinator habitat in their own gardens, along with technical assistance to complete projects through our educational workshops and coaches!

□ 3,000 Spring 2024 grantees were notified of their selection on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

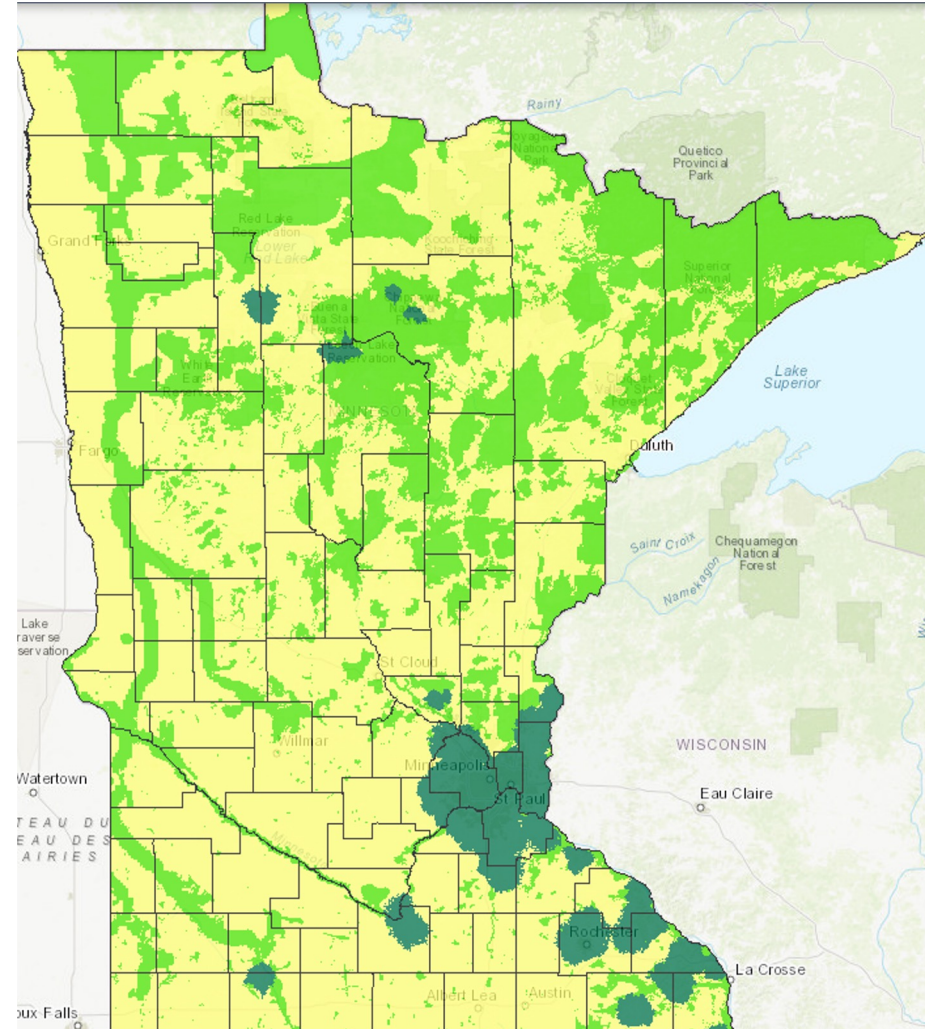


**Residential Cost-Share: \$400**  
cost share reimbursement for  
Spring 2024 cohort

## Requirements for funding:

- Maintaining projects at least 3 years
- Using locally adapted/ local origin native vegetation
- Protecting projects from pesticides
- Submit before/after images, mapping project, receipts

## Priority Areas



# Lawns to Legumes: Grant Basics

## Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- Confirm participation in program
- Plan your project



# Plan your project: Choosing project type

## Four Project Types:

### 1) Native Pocket Plantings

Variations:

- A. Raingardens
- B. Boulevard Plantings
- C. Lakeshore Buffer



### 2) Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs

### 3) Pollinator Lawns

### 4) Pollinator Meadows



# Plan your project:

## Project types

### 1) Native Plant Pocket Planting

There's room in almost every yard for a small native plant garden

A 10x10 garden can be enough to offer pollinator habitat throughout the year.

Starting small is often the smartest approach.



# Plan your project:

## Project types

### 2) Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs add another dimension to your yard and garden. They can also provide:

- Early-season forage for pollinators
- Edible fruit
- Shade
- Autumn color
- Winter structure





# Plan your project: Project types

## 3) Pollinator Lawns

Fine Fescues, along with low growing flowers can work together to provide a low-maintenance turf alternative that supports native bees.



# *Plan your project:*

## *Project types*

### 4) Pollinator Meadow

A large planting of diverse and native plants can be created all at once, or you can start with a small garden and expand it every year.



Especially in a larger garden, it is good to have a strong mix of grasses and flowers. Native grasses provide many benefits, not least being the number of pollinator species that nest in them or feed on them in their larval states

# Plan your project: Design Elements



- You may want to incorporate more elements into your project; stones, and other edging materials look nice and can help frame your garden.
- Mulch and edging are eligible project expenses.

# Plan your project: Choosing Plant Species

- How much sunlight is there?
- What is the soil moisture of the site?
- Do you have blooming flowers throughout the growing season (3 species in spring, summer, and fall)?



## Plants for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Pollinator Superfoods

### Herbaceous Species

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Soil	Height'
Spring	Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	sun to shade	dry	3
	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1 to 2
	Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	full to part shade	mesic	1 to 2
	Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	full sun	dry	2
	Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	full to part shade	mesic	2
	Wood Betony	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1
Summer	Shooting Star species	<i>Primula spp</i>	full to part sun	mesic	1
	Giant Hyssop species	<i>Agastache spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	4
	Milkweed species	<i>Asclepias spp</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Wild White Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	full sun	dry	4 to 5
	Cream Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	full sun	dry	2
	White Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Coneflower species	<i>Echinacea spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	3 to 4
	Joe Pye	<i>Eutrochium spp</i>	full to part sun	mesic	4 to 6
	Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	sun to shade	mesic to wet	2 to 5
	Blazingstar species	<i>Liatris spp</i>	full sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Bee Balm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3 to 4
	Beardtongue species	<i>Penstemon spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	1 to 3
	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3
	Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	full to part sun	mesic	6
Fall	Native Field Thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	full sun	dry to mesic	3 to 7
	Native Swamp Thistle	<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	full to part sun	mesic to wet	3 to 8
	Gentian species	<i>Gentiana spp</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 3
	Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	2 to 5
	New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-anglia</i>	full to part sun	mesic	3 to 6

# Plan your project: Garden Layout

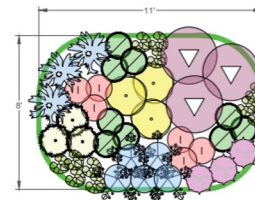
- Mixture of grasses, flowers, and shrubs
- Keep species together in groups: easier for you to identify and maintain, and for bees to find!
- Put shorter plants in “front”



## NATIVE GARDEN TEMPLATE SHADE + 75 SF

Metro Blooms  
651.699.2426  
P.O. Box 17099  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
www.metroblooms.org

### PLANTING PLAN



### PLANT LIST

ICON	QTY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT	SPACING	BLOOM
🌿	11	Wild Ginger	Asarum canadense	6"	1'	Apr-May
🌿	5	Jacob's Ladder	Polemonium reptans	1'	1'	Apr-June
🌿	3	Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	1'-2"	1'	May-June
🌿	3	Big-Leaved Aster	Aster macrophyllus	1'-2"	18"	Aug-Sept
🌿	3	Tall Thimbleweed	Anemone virginiana	1'-2"	18"	June-Aug
🌿	3	Zig Zag Goldenrod	Solidago flexicaulis	1'-3"	18"	Aug-Oct
🌿	9	Bottlebrush Grass	Elymus hystrix	2'-3"	1'	July-Sept
🌿	6	Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	2'-3"	1'	May-July
🌿	3	Rose Turtlehead	Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'	2'-4"	2'	July-Sept

### GRAPHIC SCALE



### PLANTING NOTES

- If your native garden is a different shape than shown on this plan, that's ok. These notes will help you place the plants in the right spots.
- Consider where you will view the garden from when placing plants.
- Plant in clusters or groups of 3 or more.
- Put shorter plants near the outer edge.
- Put taller plants near the back or center.
- Use the plant list as a guide for heights. It is organized from shortest to tallest plants.
- Have fun. Don't stress. Enjoy your new garden and pollinator guests!

### PLANT PHOTOS



# Lawns to Legumes

## Grant Basics

### Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- Confirm participation in program
- Plan your project
- Install your project



# Install your project: Prepare your project site

- Remove sod
- Turn, loosen and rake soil
- Use mulch and/or other weed suppression practice (no chemicals)
- We recommend mulching your new garden



# *Install your project: Prepare your project site*

Other options:

- “Sheet mulch” with a layer of cardboard covered with mulch to suffocate the grass beneath.
- “Solarize” the area by covering it in a clear plastic sheet for a couple of months
  - only works in the sun
- Learn about these site preparation methods and more with the Xerces Society guide to Organic Site Preparation



*Installation tips for each project type are covered in depth on our website and in our February project webinars*



# *Install your project*



*Installation tips for each project type are covered in depth on our website and in our February project webinars*

# *Install your project: Native Pocket Plantings*



- Lay out the plants before you put them in the ground so that you're happy with their spacing.
- Protect soil from erosion with mulch

# Install your project: Trees and Shrubs



- Dig a hole as deep and at least twice as wide as the root ball
- Straighten, cut, or remove circling roots
- Place tree in hole at appropriate height (root flare or top root should be at or slightly above ground level) and straighten the tree
- Gently but firmly backfill hole, watering periodically to reduce air pockets

# *Install your project:* *Pollinator Lawns*

## **Basic Example and Instructions**

\*If the lawn doesn't have a bunch of creeping charlie or other aggressive invasives that will spread, this method may be right for you:

- 1. Mow lawn as short as possible.**
- 2. Rake clippings to expose as much soil as possible.**

# *Install your project: Pollinator Lawns*

3. **Spread seed.** Compost or sand make good bulking agents.
4. **Keep moist** until sprouting, and then cut back on watering and stop fertilizing.
5. Maintenance: **Never again mow below 3 inches.** Trim in the fall. Herbicides will kill your flowers, so hand weed.



For seeding rates and more options and information see [www.bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives](http://www.bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives)

# *Install your project: Pollinator Meadow*

**Bit-by-bit:** Multiple pocket plantings side by side and over time.

## **All at once:**

- Use smaller plants (plugs) and/or seed, to cover more area for the same cost.
- Check with the supplier of your native seeds or seed mixes for specific planting instructions.
  - Some seeds are best sown in the fall
  - Most plantings grown from seed will take at least 3 years before they are even close to establishment
- Protect against erosion
- Get some friends to help out

# Maintain your project: Plant Establishment

- Water during dry periods – **at least 1”** per week for the first year.
- Pull weeds! Get them while they are small
- Keep plantings clear of debris
- Replace mulch and plants as needed

*Which one of these would you rather pull?*



# Lawns to Legumes

## *Grant Basics*

### Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- Confirm participation in program
- Plan your project
- Install your project
- Resources to help
- Submit your reimbursement request





# Online Resources: Planting Guides + Plant Lists

Visit Blue Thumb's Resources webpage at  
<https://bluethumb.org/public-resources/>

The screenshot shows the Blue Thumb website interface. At the top left is the logo with the tagline 'PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER'. A navigation bar includes 'About', 'Blue Thumb Partners', 'Learn', 'Lawn to Legumes', and 'Plant Finder'. A dropdown menu under 'Learn' is open, listing 'Workshops & Events', 'Raingardens', 'Turf Alternatives', 'Shoreline Stabilization', 'Sustainable Landcare Training', and 'Resources', with 'Resources' circled in yellow. Below the navigation is a secondary menu with categories like 'Plant Lists', 'Design Templates', 'Raingardens', etc. The 'Plant Lists' section is active, displaying a list of resources with red document icons.

Your go-to page for:

- plant lists
- design templates
- project guides

## RAINGARDEN TEMPLATE

SHADE + 75 SF

Metro Blooms  
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Minneapolis, MN 55417  
www.metroblooms.org

### PLANTING PLAN

### PLANT LIST

ICON	QTY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT	SPACING	BLOOM
	5	Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	1'-2'	1'	May-June
	6	Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum pedatum	1'-2'	18"	n/a
	3	Big-Leaved Aster	Aster macrophyllus	1'-2'	18"	Aug-Sept
	1	Bradbury's Monarda	Monarda bradburiiana	1'-2'	18"	June-July
	3	Zig Zag Goldenrod	Solidago flexicaulis	1'-3'	18"	Aug-Oct
	4	Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum biflorum	1'-3'	1'	Apr-May
	5	Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	2'-3'	1'	May-July
	5	Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumensis	2'-3'	18"	June-Sept
	3	White Turtlehead	Chelone glabra	2'-3'	2'	Aug-Oct
	5	Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica	2'-3'	18"	July-Sept

### PLANTING NOTES

- If your raingarden is a different shape than shown on this plan, that's ok. These notes will help you place the plants in the right spots.
- Keep plants within the dashed line of the basin in that area as they are best suited for the soil moisture conditions.
- Consider where you will view the garden from when placing plants.
- Plant in clusters or groups of 3 or more.
- Put shorter plants near the outer edge.
- Put taller plants near the back or center.
- Use the plant list as a guide for heights. It is organized from shortest to tallest plants.
- Have fun. Don't stress. Enjoy your new garden and pollinator guests!

### PLANT PHOTOS

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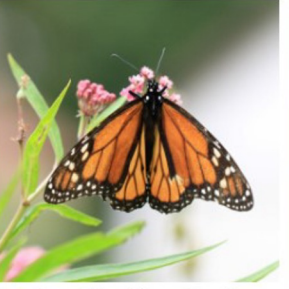

Blue Thumb  
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER

About Blue Thumb Partners **Learn** Lawns to Legumes Plant Finder

Workshops & Events  
Raingardens  
Turf Alternatives  
Shoreline Stabilization  
Sustainable Landcare Training  
Resources






Explore the tabs below for free downloads on a variety of topics related to planting for clean water and pollinators. For guides on specific planting projects, you can also visit our [Raingardens](#), [Shoreline Stabilization](#), [Turf Alternatives](#), and [DIY Planting Guide](#) pages.

### Featured Resources

-  Planting for Pollinators Design Guide
-  Native Plants Nurseries/Retailers List
-  Monarch Upper Midwest Plant List
-  Rusty Patched Bumblebee List

Plant Lists Design Templates Raingardens Shoreline Stabilization Turf Alternatives General Guides **Lawns to Legumes Guides**

### Lawns to Legumes Guides

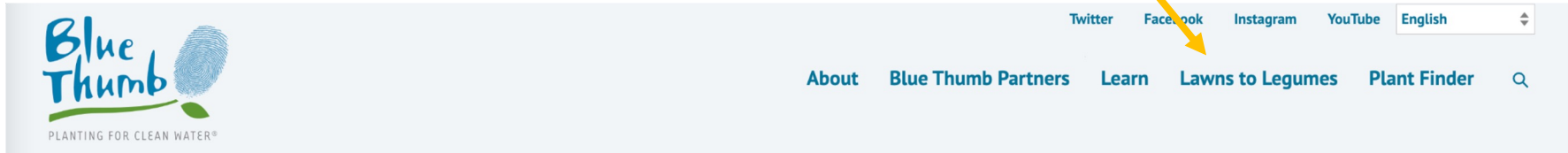
-  [Creating Pollinator Habitat Presentation 4.20.22](#)
-  [Eligible Expenses and Acceptable Vegetation](#)
-  [Garden Maintenance Guide](#)
-  [Individual Example Reimbursement Boulevard](#)
-  [Individual Example Reimbursement Pocket Garden](#)

Make sure to download the **Planting for Pollinators Design Guide!!**

- VERY thorough project guide made for L2L grantees!

# Online Resources: Planting Guides

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>



## Grantee Guide

Are you a Lawns to Legumes grantee? This guide is for you!

Check out the **Grantee Guide** on Blue Thumb's L2L webpage for project guidance!

## Step 1: Getting Started



- Confirm your participation in the program! Follow the link that was emailed to you to accept your grant. Download this [list of important links](#) for easy access.
- Before you start your project, remember to take "before" photos of your project area. You will need to take "after" images once your project is completed. Before/after photos of your project are required for reimbursement.
- Attend a grantee training webinar (you will be emailed details) or watch a webinar recording (see below).
- All grantees will have access to "The Hive!" The Hive is a new community platform for grantees to connect. You will receive an email to access The Hive. Connect with each other in your region's "space," share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from L2L staff.

# Online Resources: Native Nurseries

Download the **Native Plants Nurseries & Retailers List** on the Grantee Guide webpage!



The cover page features a background image of green leaves and a monarch caterpillar. The title "Native Plants" is in large white font, with "NURSERIES & RETAILERS" below it. The Blue Thumb logo is in the bottom left corner.

**KEY:**  has online ordering  offers plant kits or mixes  sells trees or shrubs  sells seeds

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ONLINE/MULTIPLE LOCATIONS . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TWIN CITIES METRO . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOUTHERN MN . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CENTRAL + NORTH MN . . . . .</b>	<b>6</b>

**NEED MORE HELP?**

1. Find more native plant suppliers from the MN Department of Natural Resources at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers)
2. Get all the resources you need such as plant lists, design templates, and more at [www.bluethumb.org/public-resources](http://www.bluethumb.org/public-resources)

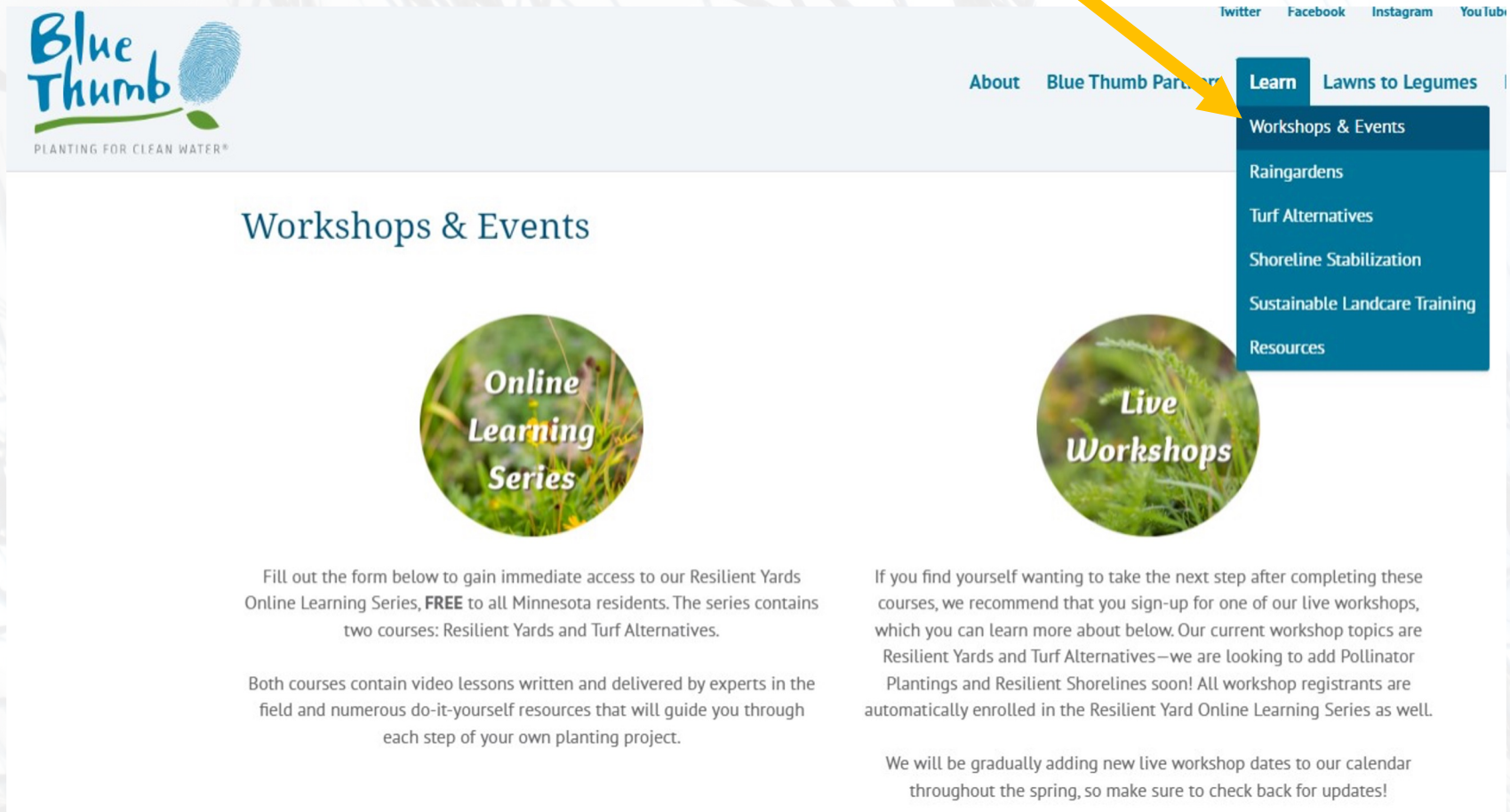


1

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/>

# Online Resources: Workshops

Go to <https://bluethumb.org/events/> to access the **FREE Resilient Yards Online Learning Series** or to sign up for a live workshop!




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PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER®

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About Blue Thumb Partnerships **Learn** Lawns to Legumes

Workshops & Events  
Raingardens  
Turf Alternatives  
Shoreline Stabilization  
Sustainable Landcare Training  
Resources


## Workshops & Events



**Online Learning Series**

Fill out the form below to gain immediate access to our Resilient Yards Online Learning Series, **FREE** to all Minnesota residents. The series contains two courses: Resilient Yards and Turf Alternatives.

Both courses contain video lessons written and delivered by experts in the field and numerous do-it-yourself resources that will guide you through each step of your own planting project.



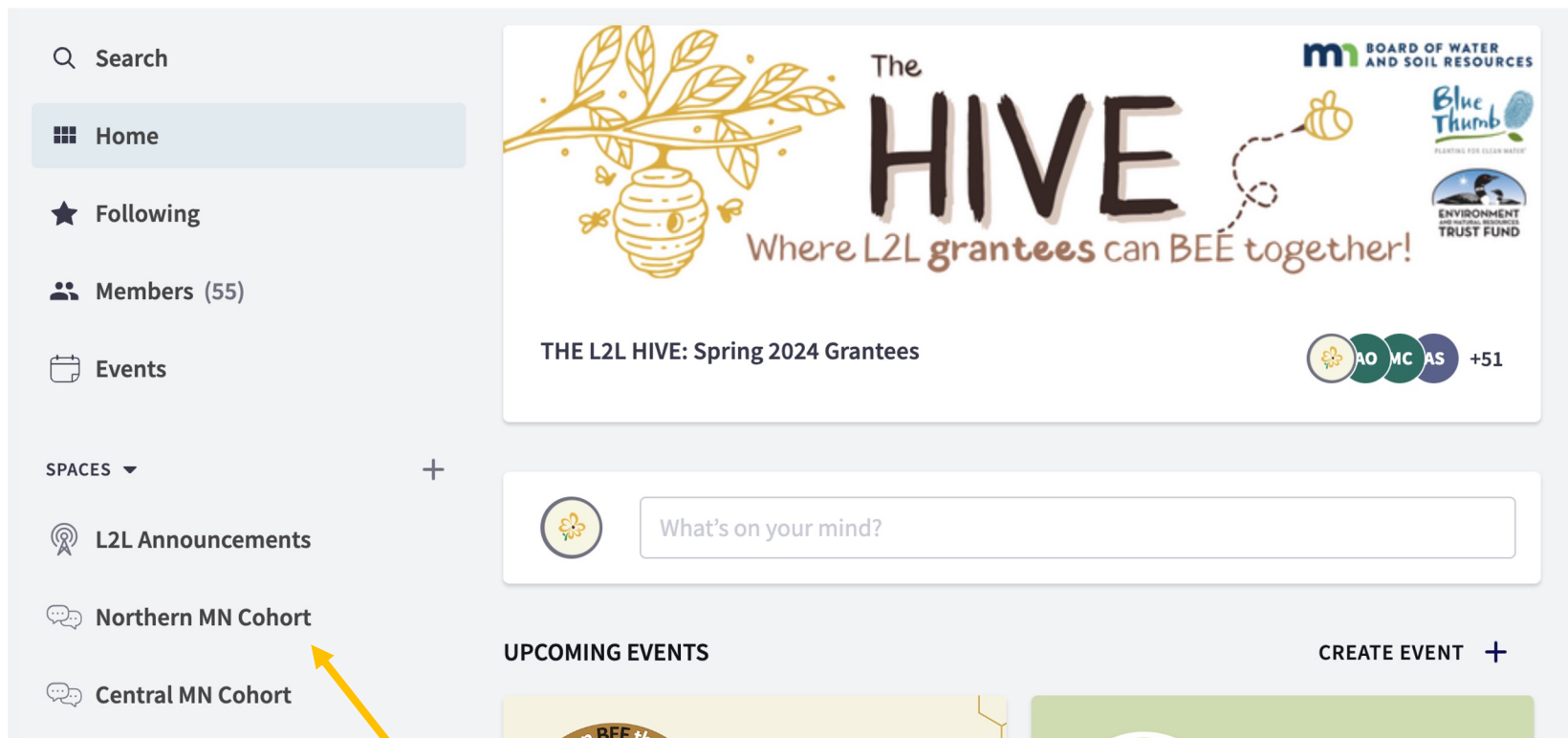
**Live Workshops**

If you find yourself wanting to take the next step after completing these courses, we recommend that you sign-up for one of our live workshops, which you can learn more about below. Our current workshop topics are Resilient Yards and Turf Alternatives—we are looking to add Pollinator Plantings and Resilient Shorelines soon! All workshop registrants are automatically enrolled in the Resilient Yard Online Learning Series as well.

We will be gradually adding new live workshop dates to our calendar throughout the spring, so make sure to check back for updates!

# New Resource: The Hive!

All grantees will have access to "The Hive"!  
A community platform for grantees to connect.



- Connect with each other in your region's "space"!
- Share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from L2L staff

# Lawns to Legumes

## *Grant Basics*

### Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- Confirm participation in program
- Plan your project
- Install your project
- Resources to help
- Submit your reimbursement request



# Reimbursements

When you have completed your planting project, make sure to map your project and submit a reimbursement request!



The screenshot shows the Blue Thumb website header with the logo and navigation links. The 'Lawns to Legumes' menu is open, and the 'Request Reimbursement' option is highlighted with a yellow circle. A yellow arrow points from this option to a yellow callout box below.

Blue Thumb  
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER®

Twitter Facebook Instagram YouTube Select Language

About Blue Thumb Partners Learn **Lawns to Legumes** Plant Finder

About Lawns to Legumes  
Apply for Lawns to Legumes Assistance  
DIY Planting Guide  
Grantee Guide  
Coaching Information  
**Request Reimbursement**  
Map Your Pollinator Project

## Request Reimbursement for your Lawns to Legumes Individual Support Grant

L2L Individual Support Cost-Share Grantees

The deadline for Spring 2023 grantees to submit their projects is July 15. We are not accepting reimbursement requests at this time.

Click [this link](#) to see eligible expenses for reimbursement.

You can access the reimbursement page from the Lawns to Legumes drop-down menu on the Blue Thumb site

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/request-reimbursement/>



# Reimbursements

## What you'll need to submit a reimbursement request:

- Itemized receipts
- Before and after photos
- Number of hours spent on project and total spending amount on project
- Size of project (square feet or acres)


# Eligible Expenses

## Use the Eligible Expenses Guide in the Grantee Guide!






- Native plants, trees and shrubs or bee lawn seed
- Wood mulch, compost, edging
- Delivery fees
- Contractor installation or DIY equipment rental
- For container gardens or raised bed projects only: Soil, planters or raised bed materials (up to \$100).

Receipts *must* be legible and show that you've purchased items that are eligible for reimbursement *after* December 15, 2023



Lawns to Legumes Individual Support  
**Spring 2024 Eligible Expenses Guide**  
(Refer to your participant agreements for additional grant commitments)

**Eligible project expenses for reimbursement include:**

1. NATIVE PLANTS + SEEDS	2. PROJECT EXPENSES	3. IF NEEDED
<p>To make the biggest impact for pollinators, native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of your project. Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable (see page 2 for exceptions).</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minnesota native plants and seeds including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ flowers/forbs</li><li>◦ bare root plants</li><li>◦ grasses and sedges</li><li>◦ trees and shrubs</li><li>◦ seeds</li></ul></li><li>• All-Season Blooms: Projects should have at least three blooming plant species during spring, summer and fall, with higher diversity strongly encouraged</li><li>• Source native plants and seeds from within 175 miles of project location to the extent possible</li></ul>	<p>Depending on the needs of your project, these materials can help your planting be successful. Remember to keep native plants the focus of your project.*</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mulch (non-dyed preferred)</li><li>• Compost</li><li>• Edging (non-plastic preferred)</li><li>• Fencing or other herbivore protection material (chicken wire and stakes, mesh baskets, etc. This does not include repellents.)</li><li>• Stake for your L2L yard sign</li><li>• Equipment rental fees</li><li>• Delivery fees</li><li>• Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms workshops</li><li>• For raised bed and container gardens: soil**, containers, planters, and raised bed materials up to \$100)</li></ul>	<p>If you are a beginning gardener or dealing with a special project site, these purchases may be helpful to you only if needed.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gardening equipment purchases under \$50 (trowels, gloves, etc.)</li><li>• Sheet mulching materials including cardboard or other wood fiber-based products</li><li>• Biodegradable weed suppression material including paper-based landscaping fabric (plastic-based products are not reimbursable)</li><li>• Contractor installation and/or maintenance of projects</li></ul> <p><b>All contracted work must be through the current grant period to be eligible.</b></p>

\*Blue Thumb/MN BWSR has the right to refuse reimbursement if it is clear that project funds were not used for the primary purpose of creating native pollinator habitat.  
\*\*Soil is not an eligible expense for projects that don't involve containers, as native plants can be selected for a wide range of soils in Minnesota. Dry prairie plants are well adapted to sandy, nutrient poor soils.

# Eligible Expenses: Receipt Examples



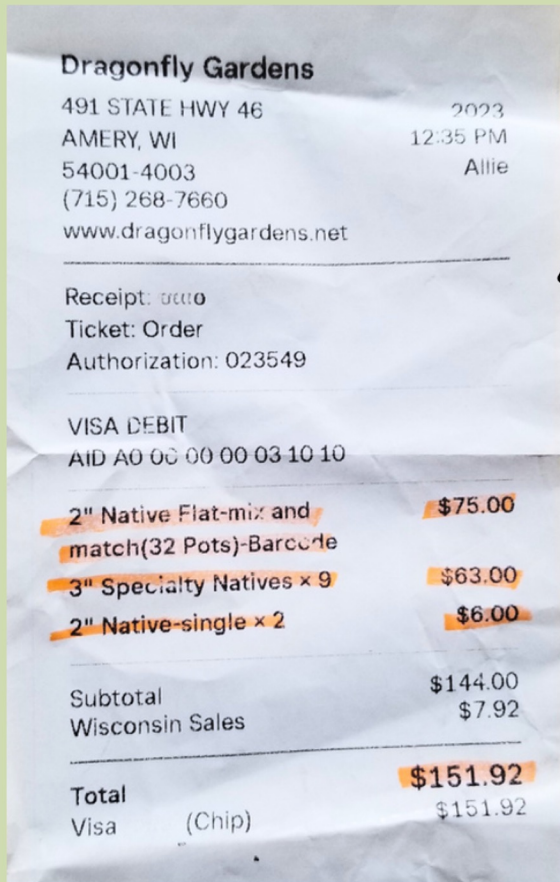
Receipts should be itemized and show that your purchased plants are native (with a few exceptions noted on the Eligible Expenses Guide).

Make sure that the receipt shows key details (date, nursery/retailer name, plant/item names, and total) so that staff can process reimbursement. We will not accept unreadable receipts.



If your receipt includes purchases that are not part of your L2L project, circle or highlight the purchases you are requesting reimbursement for.

# Eligible Expenses: Receipt Examples



If your receipt is not itemized or does not include plant/items, please also submit either a list of the plant/item names purchased. A photo of your plant tags can also work!



# Eligible Expenses

- Refer to our Eligible Expenses Guide often!
- Email the L2L Helpline if you're not sure whether a purchase is eligible ([l2lhelp@bluethumb.org](mailto:l2lhelp@bluethumb.org))



## Lawns to Legumes Individual Support Spring 2024 Eligible Expenses Guide

(Refer to your participant agreements for additional grant commitments)

### Eligible project expenses for reimbursement include:

#### 1. NATIVE PLANTS + SEEDS

To make the biggest impact for pollinators, native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of your project. Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable (see page 2 for exceptions).



- Minnesota native plants and seeds including:
  - flowers/forbs
  - bare root plants
  - grasses and sedges
  - trees and shrubs
  - seeds
- All-Season Blooms: Projects should have at least three blooming plant species during, spring, summer and fall, with higher diversity strongly encouraged
- Source native plants and seeds from within 175 miles of project location to the extent possible

#### 2. PROJECT EXPENSES

Depending on the needs of your project, these materials can help your planting be successful. Remember to keep native plants the focus of your project.\*



- Mulch (non-dyed preferred)
- Compost
- Edging (non-plastic preferred)
- Fencing or other herbivore protection material (chicken wire and stakes, mesh baskets, etc. This does not include repellents.)
- Stake for your L2L yard sign
- Equipment rental fees
- Delivery fees
- Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms workshops
- For raised bed and container gardens: soil\*\*, containers, planters, and raised bed materials up to \$100)

#### 3. IF NEEDED

If you are a beginning gardener or dealing with a special project site, these purchases may be helpful to you only if needed.



- Gardening equipment purchases under \$50 (trowels, gloves, etc.)
  - Sheet mulching materials including cardboard or other wood fiber-based products
  - Biodegradable weed suppression material including paper-based landscaping fabric (plastic-based products are not reimbursable)
  - Contractor installation and/or maintenance of projects
- All contracted work must be through the current grant period to be eligible.**

\*BlueThumb/MN BWSR has the right to refuse reimbursement if it is clear that project funds were not used for the primary purpose of creating native pollinator habitat.

\*\*Soil is not an eligible expense for projects that don't involve containers, as native plants can be selected for a wide range of soils in Minnesota. Dry prairie plants are well adapted to sandy, nutrient poor soils.

# Take before and after pictures



## Before Pictures

- 2-4 simple shots from far enough away to establish some context
- Make a note of where you took the pictures from, you can even mark it on your site plan
- After snow melts

## After Pictures

- Try to take them from the same general location and vantage point as your “before” pictures so they are easy to compare
- Your project might not be “beautiful” yet, we just need to see the components of your project you are asking to be reimbursed (plants, seeded area or sprouting seeds, other eligible materials).



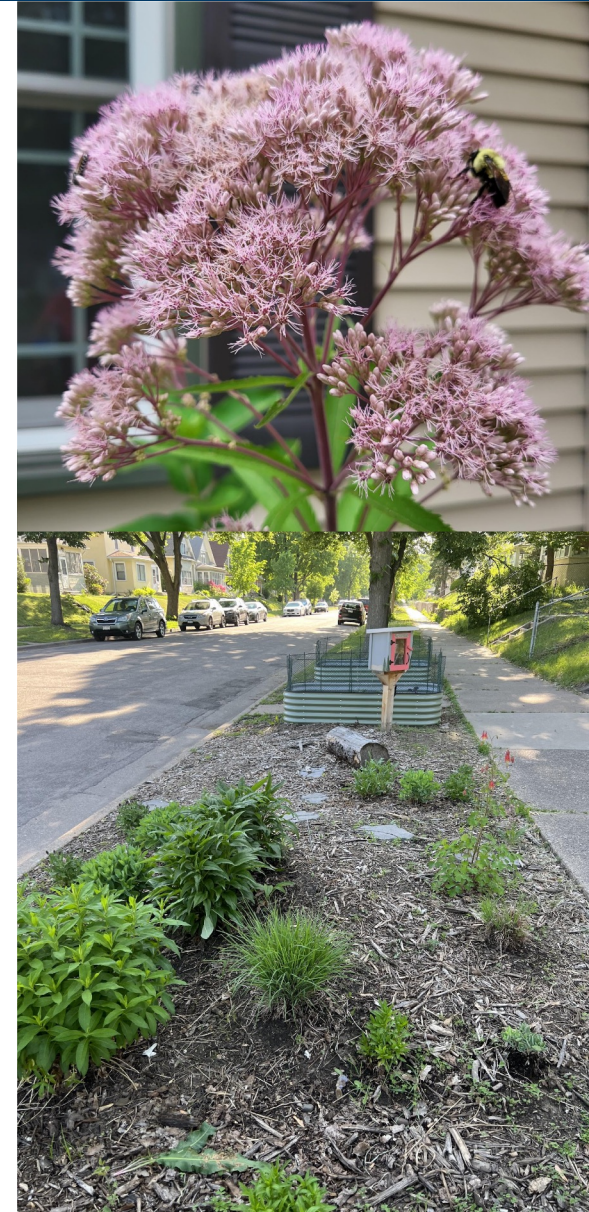
# Track Your Spending + Time

## Spending

- Track the total expenses spent on your project, including any expenses beyond the amount you request reimbursement for. (This will help us demonstrate the many outcomes of the Lawns to Legumes program!)

## Time

- Grantees are expected to spend **at least 2 hours of time** on their projects. This includes time spent watching the L2L Kick-Off Webinar and planning. You will need to share the total number of hours you spent on your project.



# Timeline

## Lawns to Legumes Grant Program Spring 2024



- **December 15:** 3,000 Fall Cohort grantees selected and notified
- **January 24, 12-1 pm:** Optional Q+A Session
- Optional project webinars
  - **2/20, 12-1:30 pm:** *Pollinator Plantings*
  - **2/29, 6-7:30 pm:** *Pollinator Lawns*
- Coach matching by **February 9, 2024**
- **Visit native nurseries** online and in person.
  - **Planning + Site Prep (Jan-May)**
  - **Planting Season (May-July)**
- **July 15, 2024:** Project deadline, all reimbursements and supporting documents due
- Following reimbursement submission, we'll send you an L2L yard sign





# L2L Q+A Session



Wednesday, January 24, 12-1pm, Zoom

- The session will be recorded
- Submit your questions in the chat or email them to the L2L Helpline: [l2lhelp@bluethumb.org](mailto:l2lhelp@bluethumb.org)



# Coaching

## Coaching Interest Survey

- After this webinar, we will be emailing you an optional coaching interest survey. Please fill it out if you would like to be matched with a volunteer coach.
- We have a limited number of coaches, so will do our best to match as many grantees as possible based on need.

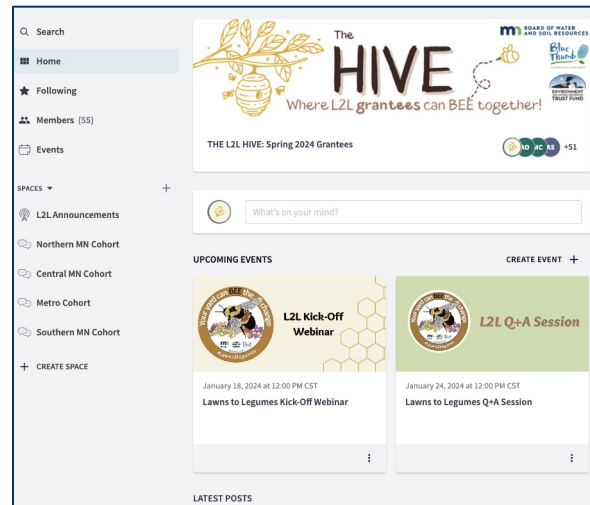
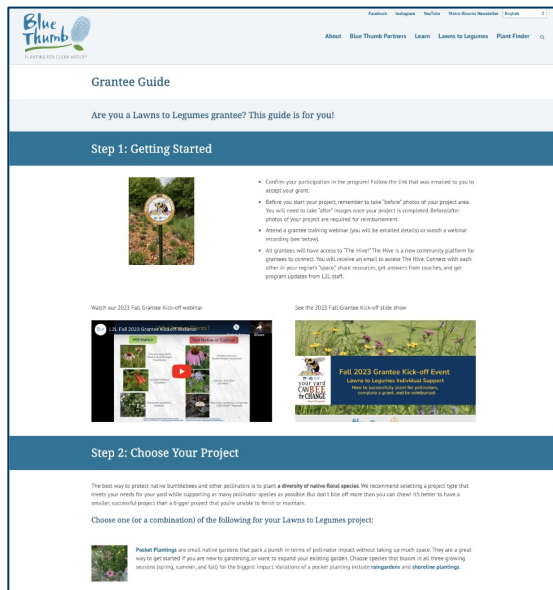
## Coaching Expectations

- If we are able to match you with a coach, we will let you know after February 9
- Your coach will then reach out to you by phone and/or email (check your spam folder!)
- Volunteer coaches can offer 2-3 hours of their time via phone, Zoom, and/or email



# When in doubt...

Go to these three places for help!



1. Grantee Guide + FAQ



2. The Hive



3. Email the L2L Helpline (l2lhelp@bluethumb.org)

# Thank You!

