



Spring 2026 Lawns to Legumes Kick-Off Webinar



your yard
CAN **BEE**
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes



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 statewide 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 Minneapolis-based non-profit that coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership. Metro Blooms that partners with communities to nurture and support thriving ecosystems, land, and water, practicing shared leadership and care to move toward environmental justice.



Meet today's presenters:



Megan Reich

Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb
L2L Co-Manager

John Bly

Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb
Operations Director

Dan Shaw

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

About Lawns to Legumes

Building a movement to protect Minnesota's pollinators

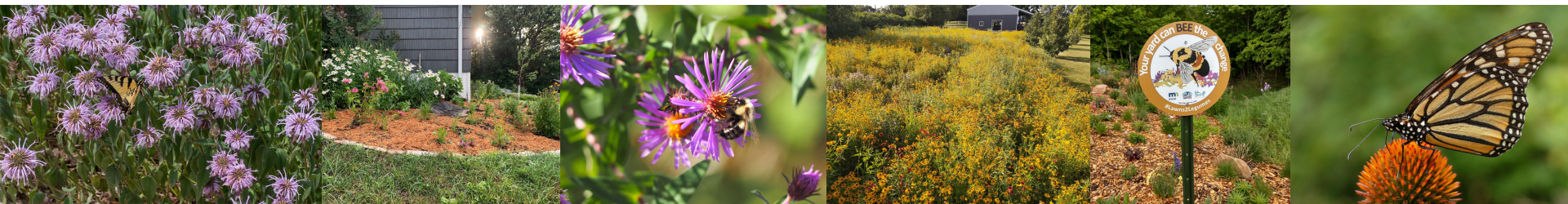
(Program started June 2019)

Funding Sources:

- Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- **Minnesota General Fund, USFWS**

Program Focus:

- Establish pollinator habitat projects on residential landscapes across Minnesota to support the rusty patched bumblebee and other pollinators.



About Lawns to Legumes: Three Components

Pollinator Pathways

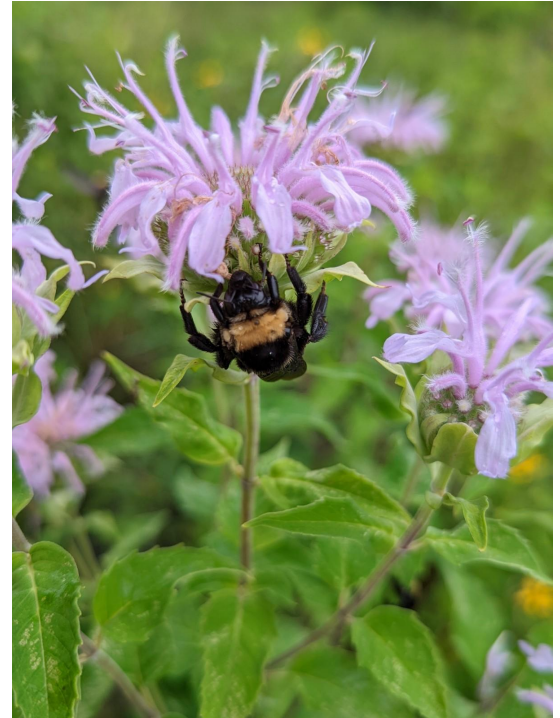
- Larger Grants to local communities to build pollinator corridors

Individual Resident Support:

- 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

Free DIY Resources

- Resources for DIY pollinator habitat projects: guides, plant lists, design templates, and more on [bluethumb.org](https://www.bluethumb.org)





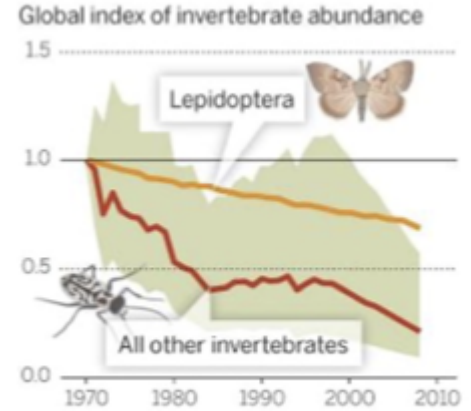
Why Native Plants?



Why Native Plants?

Conservation Challenges

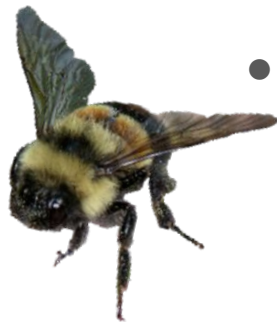
- Recent research shows significant declines in insects across the world—more than 40% of insect species are declining.
- Insects make up the base of the food web and are critical for many other forms of life.
- Native plants support insects.



Minnesota's 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 from chemicals, insecticides and fungicides.
- Connected, high quality habitat to increase foraging and reproductive success



A Note on Cultivars...

IMPORTANT: Cultivars, nativars, and hybrids are genetically modified for aesthetics or other traits and provide limited nutrition to pollinators. They are **not** reimbursed by Lawns to Legumes. *(More info on that later!)*

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*)

Lawns to Legumes Grant Basics



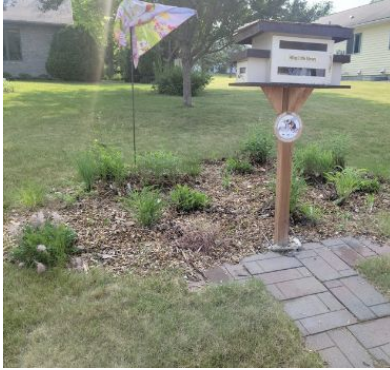
your yard
CAN **BEE**
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes

Steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☐ Plan your project

Five Project Types



Pocket Planting



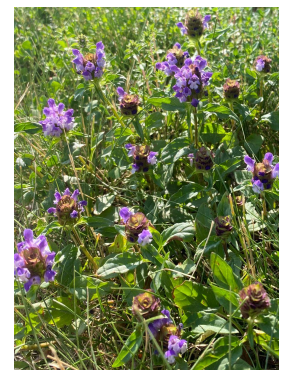
Trees and Shrubs



**Pollinator
Meadows**



**Container
Garden**



Pollinator Lawn

Variations:

- Rain garden
- Boulevard Planting
- Lakeshore Buffer

1 - Native Plant Pocket Planting

- There's room in almost every yard for a small native plant garden
- A small garden can be enough to offer pollinator habitat throughout the year.
- Starting small is often the smartest approach. Even a small project makes a difference for pollinators!

Biggest
expense
tends to be:
Plants



2 - Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs add another dimension to your yard and garden.

They can also provide:

- Early-season food for pollinators
- Habitat for moths and butterflies
- Shade
- Autumn color
- Winter structure



Biggest
expense
tends to be:
Plants

3 - Pollinator Meadows

- 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.



Biggest
expense
tends to be:
Site prep



4 - Container Garden

- A great option if you live in an apartment or don't have outdoor space for a garden.
- You can still help pollinators by planting native plants in pots on your balcony or porch, and native container plantings can thrive for years with proper care.

Biggest
expense
tends to be:
Containers



5 - Pollinator Lawns

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

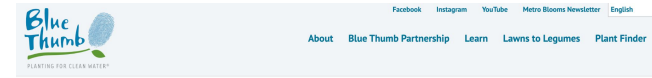


Biggest
expense
tends to be:
Site prep



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)?
- Add native grasses and sedges too!
- Find plant ideas with Blue Thumb's **Plant Finder** (bluethumb.org/plants) or plant lists on Blue Thumb's **Resources** page



Plant Finder

This tool contains information on plants native to MN that are generally commercially available. It is meant to help project planners identify plants that are most likely to thrive given each project's unique mix of site characteristics and design criteria. It contains a number of optional filters to help select appropriate plants. There is no need to mark every checkbox or define every range in each filter category; you can just use the filter categories that best help "define" your project site and design intentions. Hover your mouse over a filter category for its definition, or learn more about the terminology and data sources used by the Plant Finder through the link below.

ABOUT THE PLANT FINDER MAP OF MN ECOREGIONS MN NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES

Enter a plant name to search (optional) ...

Plant Type
☐ Fern
☐ Forb
☐ Grass
☐ Shrub

Height
 0 - 10 feet

Light Exposure
☐ Sun
☐ Part Sun
☐ Shade

Soil Moisture
☐ Dry
☐ Medium
☐ Wet

Bloom Color **General Resilience** **Ecoregion**



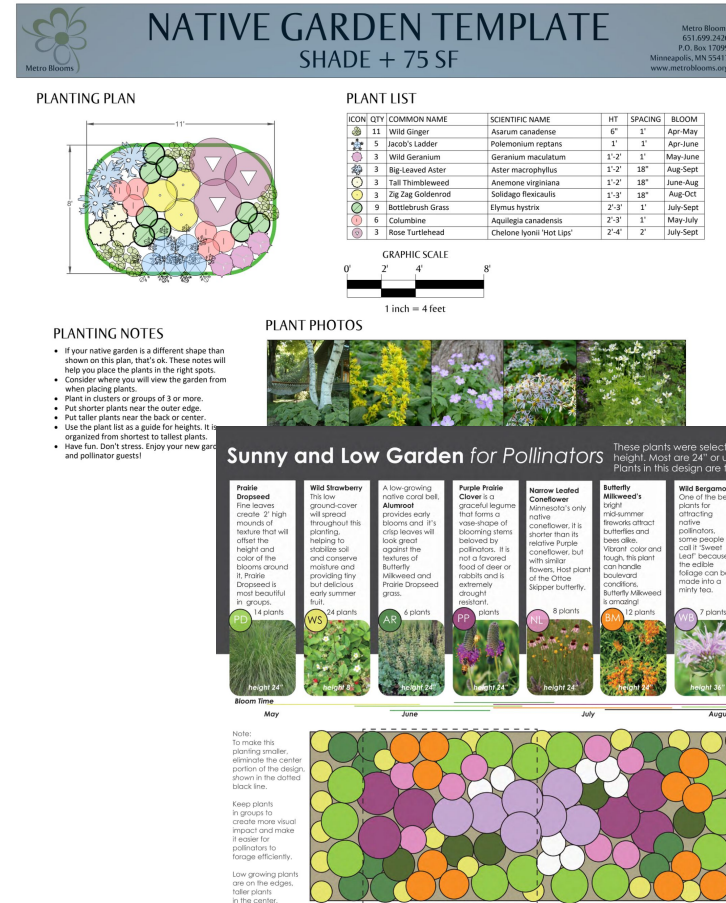
Plants for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Pollinator Superfoods

	Herbaceous Species		Light	Soil	Height*
	Common Name	Scientific Name			
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
	Shooting Star species	<i>Primula</i> spp	full to part sun	mesic	1
	Giant Hyssop species	<i>Agastache</i> spp	full to part sun	dry	4
	Milkweed species	<i>Asclepias</i> spp	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Wild White Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	full sun	dry	4 to 5
Summer	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</i> spp	full to part sun	dry	3 to 4
	Joe Pye	<i>Eutrochium</i> spp	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</i> spp	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</i> spp	full to part sun	dry	1 to 3
	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3
Fall	Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	full to part sun	mesic	6
	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</i> spp	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 3
	Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago</i> spp	full to part sun	dry	2 to 5
	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	full to part sun	mesic	3 to 6

Planting 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”
- Sample design templates available on Blue Thumb’s Resources page



Design Elements

- Mulch retains water, suppresses weeds, and keeps your planting looking neat.
- Edging looks nice and can help frame your garden.
- Plant identification tags educate passersby and help you keep track of your plants.
- The L2L yard sign helps convey the purpose of your planting (you'll be mailed one once you complete your project!



Lawns to Legumes Grant Basics



your yard
CAN BEE
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes

Steps to a successful grant project:

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

Site Preparation

- Removing sod
- For tree plantings and rain gardens: call 811 (Gopher State One) to locate public utilities
 - Dig at least 10 feet away from buried lines
- For boulevard plantings: check your city for height restrictions



Sod Removal: The Manual Method

- Remove sod with a sod kicker
- Turn, loosen and rake soil
- Apply mulch
 - shredded hardwood mulch stays in place best
- Plant!



Sod Removal: Sheet Mulching

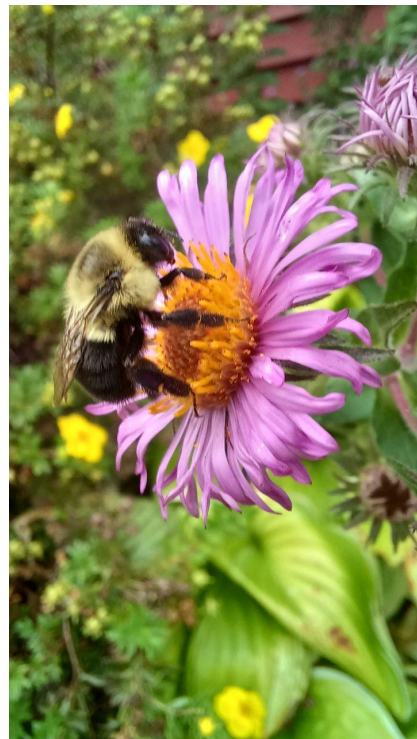
- “Sheet mulch” with a layer of cardboard covered with mulch to suffocate the grass beneath.
 - Cut vegetation as short as possible
 - Cover with cardboard
 - Thoroughly soak each layer of cardboard
 - Cover with layer of compost and mulch
- Be sure to plant through the layers into the soil



*Learn about these site preparation methods and more with the
Xerces Society guide to Organic Site Preparation*

Buying Native Plants

- Check the Eligible Expenses Guide before purchasing plants!
 - Only native Minnesota plants can be reimbursed. Check the native range of a plant using the **USDA PLANTS database** or the **Minnesota Wildflowers** website (linked on Grantee Guide).
 - Cultivars, “nativars,” hybrids and non-native annuals are not eligible for reimbursement. Review our **Native Plants vs Cultivars handout** (linked on Grantee Guide).
- We recommend choosing vendors from our **Native Plant Nurseries and Retailers** page.
 - If you don't have a nursery near you, many on our list offer delivery. Don't forget to save your receipts!



Install your Project



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

Spring Planting Timing

- Wait until soil temperatures rise to 50 degrees. When you see dandelions flowering, it's a good sign that you can start your projects.
 - Pre-order plants in winter, or buy from plant sales and retailers in spring
- Mid to late May through early June is an ideal window to get plants in the ground, before the summer heat.
- If planting in late June and early July, be sure your plants get enough water (more on that soon).



Native Pocket Plantings

- Once any sod is removed, turn, loosen, and rake the soil. Avoid deep tilling.
- Apply mulch before planting to prevent soil erosion.
- Lay out the plants before you put them in the ground so that you're happy with their spacing.



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

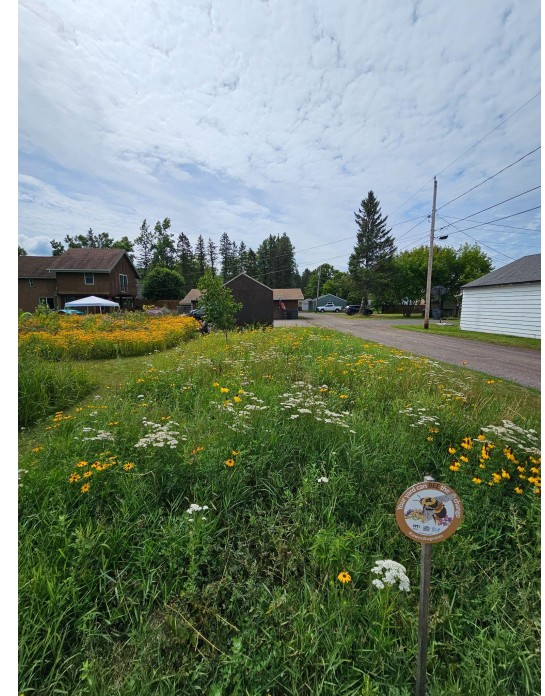


Pollinator Meadow

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



Pollinator Lawns

Basic Example and Instructions

*If the lawn doesn't have a lot of aggressive invasive plants that will spread, this method may be right for you:

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

*For seeding rates and more options and info, see
[bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives](https://www.bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives)*



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 info, see [bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives](https://www.bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives)

Container Plantings

- Choose containers with drainage holes made of plastic, metal or composite
- Add mulch to bottom couple inches of your container to fill space and create air pockets for root growth.
- Before the first freeze, let the planter dry out to avoid cracking. Leave your container out in the winter and your native perennial plants will come back in the spring!



A note on protection from herbivores

- Squirrels, rabbits, and deer see many native plants as a welcome snack.
- When tender seedlings are first in the ground, consider putting up chicken wire around your planting or placing individual mesh nets over the plants.
- Select plants around the perimeter of your garden that are less appealing to herbivores. (Natives in the mint family and onion family, plants that are rough, prickly, or hairy).



Maintain your project

- 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



your yard
CAN **BEE**
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes

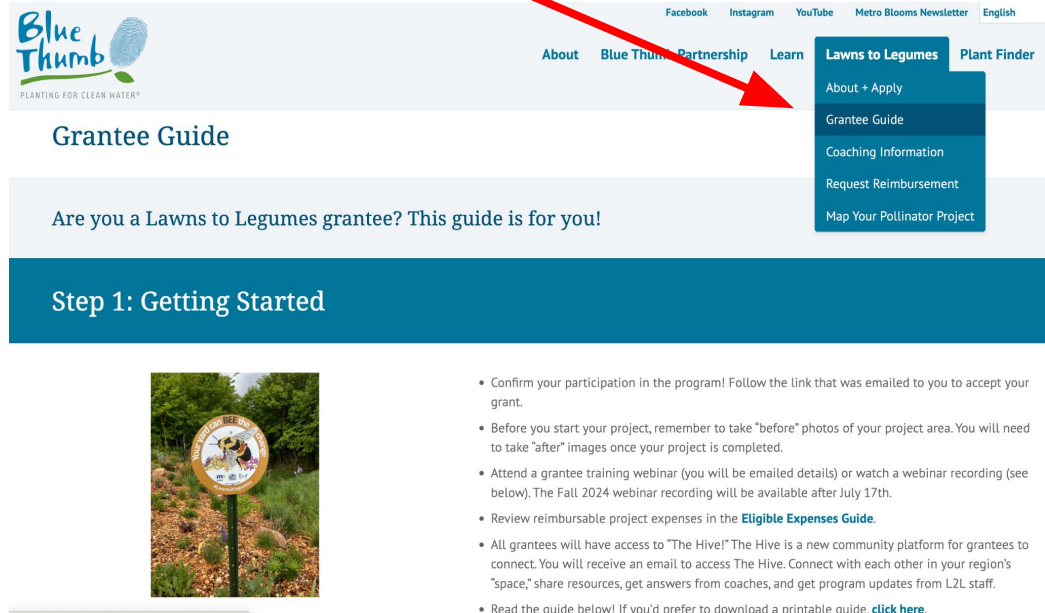
Steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☒ Plan your project
- ☒ Install your project
- ☐ Resources to help

Online Resources: Grantee Guide

Your main resource for program requirements, deadlines, and questions

- Step by step guide to completing and submitting your project
- Project Gallery
- Frequently Asked Questions




The screenshot shows the Blue Thumb website header with the logo and navigation links: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Metro Blooms Newsletter, English, About, Blue Thumb Partnership, Learn, Lawns to Legumes, and Plant Finder. The 'Lawns to Legumes' menu is open, showing options: About + Apply, Grantee Guide, Coaching Information, Request Reimbursement, and Map Your Pollinator Project. The 'Grantee Guide' page content includes the heading 'Grantee Guide', a subheading 'Are you a Lawns to Legumes grantee? This guide is for you!', and a section 'Step 1: Getting Started'. Below this is a photo of a 'POLLINATOR FRIENDLY' sign in a garden. To the right of the photo is a list of instructions for grantees.

Grantee Guide

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

Step 1: Getting Started



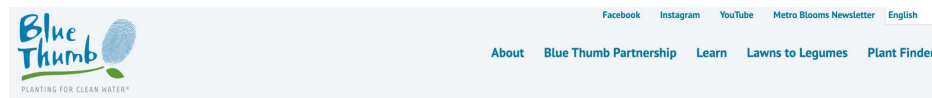
- Confirm your participation in the program! Follow the link that was emailed to you to accept your grant.
- Before you start your project, remember to take "before" photos of your project area. You will need to take "after" images once your project is completed.
- Attend a grantee training webinar (you will be emailed details) or watch a webinar recording (see below). The Fall 2024 webinar recording will be available after July 17th.
- Review reimbursable project expenses in the [Eligible Expenses Guide](#).
- 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.
- Read the guide below! If you'd prefer to download a printable guide, [click here](#).

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

Online Resources: Eligible Expenses Guide

Linked on the Grantee Guide

- Understand what plants and materials are eligible for reimbursement
- Items not on this list are not reimbursable under the Lawns to Legumes program
- **Review this guide before making purchases!**



Lawns to Legumes Eligible Expenses Guide



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

The Lawns to Legumes program has requirements on the types of purchases that can be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the guide below when purchasing native plants and materials for your pollinator habitat project. If you have any questions about whether a purchase is reimbursable, please email the [L2L Helpline](mailto:L2Lhelp@bluethumb.org) (L2Lhelp@bluethumb.org). Refer to your participant agreements (emailed to you after you filled out the Confirmation Form) for additional grant commitments.

[Click here](#) for a downloadable PDF version of this guide.

[BACK TO GRANTEE GUIDE](#)

Native Plants and Seeds

To make the biggest impact for pollinators, Minnesota native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of your project. **To be reimbursed, your project must involve the addition of new native plants within the grant period.** Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable.

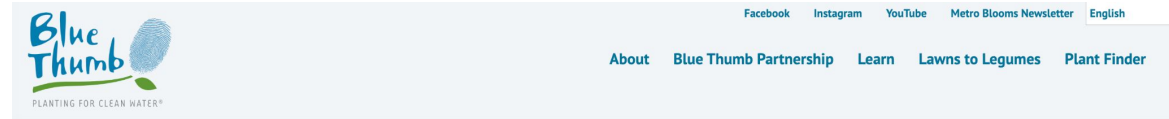
Eligible Minnesota native plants and seeds include:

bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/eligible-expenses-guide/

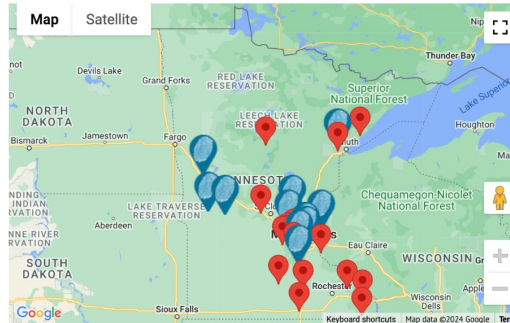
Online Resources: Native Plant Nurseries List

Linked on the Grantee Guide

- Find Minnesota nurseries and retailers that specialize in native plants
- Shopping from these retailers is recommended but not required
- Don't have a nursery near you? Many offer delivery, and delivery fees are reimbursable!



Minnesota Native Plant Nurseries and Retailers



Minnesota has many native plant nurseries and retailers. We recommend sourcing your native plants and seeds from within 175 miles of your project location to the extent possible. If you don't have a native plant retailer near you, there are some great nurseries in the state that offer shipping on online orders. Browse the list below to find a native plant nursery near you.

If you're shopping in the spring, native plant sales are another great option for finding plants. Check out our [list of spring native plant sales](#) in the Twin Cities Metro and throughout Minnesota.

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) may sell native plants or trees to residents during the spring, and some offer native garden kits. [Check out your local SWCD website](#) for more details.

Wherever you shop, be sure to ask for native plants that are insecticide- and neonicotinoid-free. Plants raised with these chemicals can be harmful to bees. [Use these tips](#) for avoiding cultivars, nativars, and hybrids, which are not reimbursable.

The Hive: Community Forum for Grantees

Connect with fellow grantees!

Share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from Lawns to Legumes staff.

The screenshot displays the 'The Hive' community forum interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with options: Search, Home (selected), Following, Members (170), Events, SPACES (with a dropdown arrow), L2L Announcements, Gardening Questions, Connect Hub, Marketplace, and a 'CREATE SPACE' button. The main content area features a header banner with the title 'The HIVE' and the tagline 'Where L2L grantees can BEE together!'. It also includes the logo for the 'm BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES' and 'Blue Thumb'. Below the banner, a section titled 'THE L2L HIVE: Spring 2025 Grantees' shows a group of four avatars (labeled XN, PK, JW) and a '+166' count. A descriptive paragraph states: 'The Hive is a community platform for Spring 2025 Lawns to Legumes grantees. Connect, share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from L2L staff.' Below this is a text input field with a flower icon and the placeholder text 'What's on your mind?'. The 'UPCOMING EVENTS' section at the bottom features two event cards. The first card, 'L2L Kick-Off Webinar', has a circular logo with a bee and the text 'Your yard can BEE the change' and '@Lawns2Legumes', and is scheduled for 'February 10 at 6:00 PM CST'. The second card, 'L2L Q+A Session', has a similar logo and is scheduled for 'February 17 at 6:00 PM CST'. A 'CREATE EVENT' button with a plus icon and a 'SEE ALL' button are also present.

Search

Home

Following

Members (170)

Events

SPACES ▾

L2L Announcements

Gardening Questions

Connect Hub

Marketplace

+ CREATE SPACE

The HIVE

Where L2L grantees can BEE together!

m BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Blue Thumb

THE L2L HIVE: Spring 2025 Grantees

XN PK JW +166

The Hive is a community platform for Spring 2025 Lawns to Legumes grantees. Connect, share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from L2L staff.

What's on your mind?

UPCOMING EVENTS

CREATE EVENT + SEE ALL

Your yard can BEE the change

L2L Kick-Off Webinar

@Lawns2Legumes

February 10 at 6:00 PM CST

Your yard can BEE the change

L2L Q+A Session

@Lawns2Legumes

February 17 at 6:00 PM CST

Optional Project Webinars

Pollinator Plantings Webinar

- Tuesday, February 24, 6-7:30 pm
- Metro Blooms Design+Build landscape designers Jennifer Ehlert and Jennifer Moeller will cover pocket plantings, tree plantings, and pollinator meadows.



Pollinator Lawns Webinar

- Tuesday, March 3, 6-7:30 pm
- James Wolfin from Twin City Seed will talk through the steps of converting your turfgrass lawn into a flowering bee lawn.

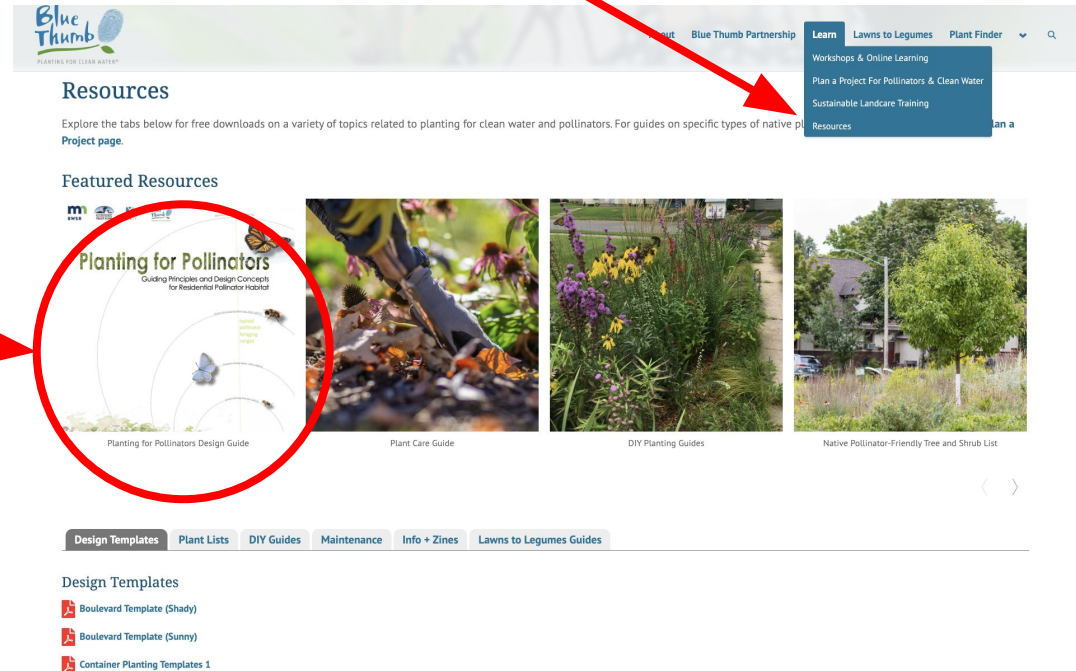


Both webinars will be recorded and shared via email.

Online Resources: Planting Guides + Plant Lists

Blue Thumb Resources Page

- Plant Lists
 - Design Templates
 - Downloadable Guides
-
- Download the Planting for Pollinators Design Guide!
 - VERY thorough project guide made for L2L grantees



Online Resources: Plan a Project Pages

Step-by-step guidance from planning and design to installation and maintenance for:

- Pocket Plantings
- Turf Alternatives
- Pollinator Meadows
- Container Plantings
- Native Trees and Shrubs
- Shoreline Stabilization
- Rain Gardens



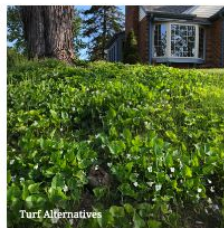
Plan a Project For Pollinators & Clean Water

What type of pollinator habitat is the best fit for you and your yard? Explore the project types below to see what best suits your goals and space.

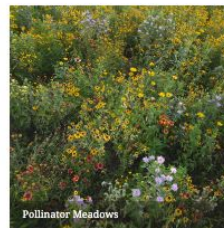
We recommend selecting a project type that meets your needs for your yard while supporting as many pollinator species as possible. But, don't bite off more than you can chew! It's better to have a smaller, successful project than a bigger project that you're unable to finish or maintain. Click on the project types below to learn more about the steps involved in each:



Pocket Plantings



Turf Alternatives



Pollinator Meadows



Container Plantings



Native Trees and Shrubs



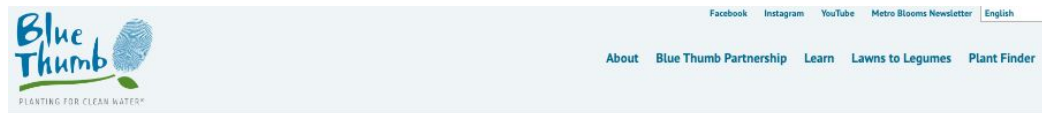
Shoreline Stabilization



Rain Gardens

Online Learning Series

Sign up for the free Resilient Yards Online Learning Series for in-depth, video-based courses covering rain gardens, turf alternatives, seed saving, and shoreline plantings.



Workshops & Online Learning

Beautify your landscape while planting for clean water and pollinator habitat.

Resilient Yards workshops give participants the skills to create their own rain gardens, native plantings, pollinator habitat, and more. Use our free online learning series, register for a live virtual workshop, or do both!

Register for the FREE Resilient Yards 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 four courses: **Resilient Yards**, **Turf Alternatives**, and our new **Seed Saving** and **Resilient Shorelines** courses. If you've already signed up for the Online Learning Series, the new Seed Saving and Resilient Shorelines will automatically appear when you log in to your account.

All 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.

First Name (Required) Last Name (Required)

Address (Required)

Street Address

City State

Register for a virtual consultation with a landscape expert



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. All of our live workshops include 1-on-1 Q&A time with a professional landscape designer. All workshop registrants are automatically enrolled in the Resilient Yard Online Learning Series as well.

Our live workshops are complete for the spring season. Check back in the fall for more workshop offerings!

Show events matching:

July 2024

Thursday July 25

5:30 pm
Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop: St. Louis Park
Willow Park, 2500 Rhode Island Ave S, St Louis Park, Minnesota, 55426, United States

Coaching

Coaching Interest Survey

- In mid-February, we will share an optional coach request form in Submittable. Please fill it out if you would like to be matched with a volunteer coach.
- **We have a limited number of coaches, so encourage grantees who are who are first-time gardeners or don't have much experience gardening with perennial plants to request a coach.**

Coaching Expectations

- You will have the opportunity to request a coach and our team will do our best to get you matched.
- You may be connecting with your coach via phone or email, so **be sure to check your spam folder!**
- Our coaches are volunteers, most are former L2L participants. Coaches usually spend a couple hours with grantees to help guide you through planning a project.



Lawns to Legumes Grant Basics



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

Steps to a successful grant project:

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

Submitting a Reimbursement Request

Submit your reimbursement request **after** your project is fully installed.

You can be reimbursed up to \$400 for eligible expenses.

The reimbursement request form will be open for spring grantees in **May** — you'll be **notified by email with a link to the form in Submittable**.



4 things you need for your reimbursement request:

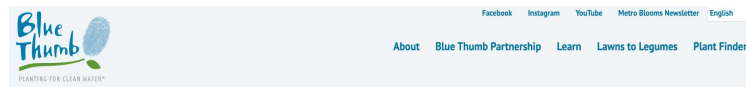
- ❑ Itemized receipts
- ❑ Before and after photos
- ❑ Approximate size of your project (square feet or acres)
- ❑ Number of hours spent on your project and total spending amount on your project



Eligible Expenses

IMPORTANT: Look at the Eligible Expenses Guide before making project purchases!

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



Lawns to Legumes Eligible Expenses Guide



your yard
CAN BEE
the CHANGE
#Lawns2Legumes

The Lawns to Legumes program has requirements on the types of purchases that can be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the guide below when purchasing native plants and materials for your pollinator habitat project. If you have any questions about whether a purchase is reimbursable, please email the [L2L Helpline](mailto:L2L_Help@bluethumb.org) (l2lhelp@bluethumb.org). Refer to your participant agreements (emailed to you after you filled out the Confirmation Form) for additional grant commitments.

[Click here](#) for a downloadable PDF version of this guide.

[BACK TO GRANTEE GUIDE](#)

Native Plants and Seeds

To make the biggest impact for pollinators, Minnesota native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of your project. **To be reimbursed, your project must involve the addition of new native plants within the grant period.** Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable.

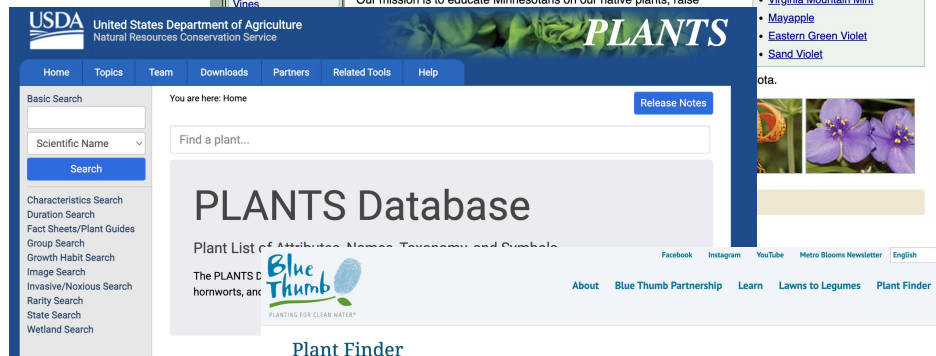
Eligible Minnesota native plants and seeds include:

bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/eligible-expenses-guide/

Eligible Expenses

To find out whether a plant is native to Minnesota, use these tools:

- Minnesota Wildflowers database (minnesotawildflowers.info)
- USDA PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov/home)
- Blue Thumb Plant Finder (bluethumb.org/plants)



Plant Finder

This tool contains information on plants native to MN that are generally commercially available. It is meant to help project planners identify plants that are most likely to thrive given each project's unique mix of site characteristics and design criteria. It contains a number of optional filters to help select appropriate plants. There is no need to mark every checkbox or define every range in each filter category; you can just use the filter categories that best help "define" your project site and design intentions. Hover your mouse over a filter category for its definition, or learn more about the terminology and data sources used by the Plant Finder through the link below.

[ABOUT THE PLANT FINDER](#)

[MAP OF MN ECOREGIONS](#)

[MN NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES](#)

Enter a plant name to search (optional) ...

Plant Type <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Forb <input type="checkbox"/> Grass	Height <input type="range" value="0-10"/> 0 - 10 feet	Light Exposure <input type="checkbox"/> Sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part Sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	Soil Moisture <input type="checkbox"/> Dry <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Wet
---	--	--	---

Eligible Expenses: Watch out for cultivars!

- Cultivars, nativars, and hybrids are not reimbursable under Lawns to Legumes, apart from a few exceptions noted in the Eligible Expenses Guide.
- See our **Native Plants vs. Cultivars handout** on the Grantee Guide for tips on telling them apart.
- Shop from a nursery knowledgeable in native plants, and ask staff for help.
- When in doubt, email the L2L Helpline (l2lhelp@bluethumb.org)

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

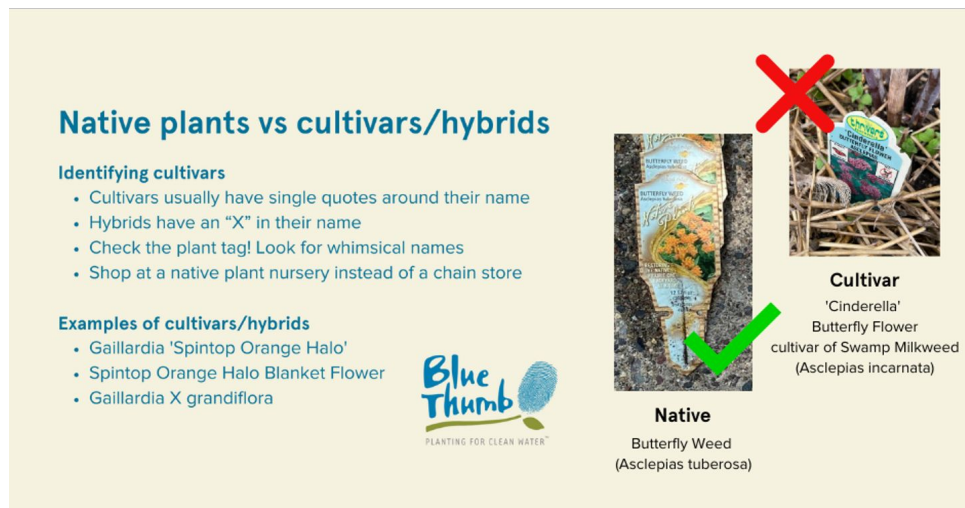
- Gaillardia 'Spintop Orange Halo'
- Spintop Orange Halo Blanket Flower
- Gaillardia X grandiflora

Native

Butterfly Weed
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Cultivar

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



Receipts

- Lawns to Legumes can only reimburse purchases made on or after the day you were awarded your grant (January 13, 2026).
- Make sure that your receipt or invoice photo is readable and shows key details (**date**, **retailer name**, **item names**, and **total**) so that staff can review your request.
- If your receipt includes purchases that are not part of your L2L project, **circle or highlight** the purchases you are requesting reimbursement for.

Order Invoice
 Order Number [REDACTED] placed on April 8, 2024 at 11:09 AM CT)

BILLED TO: [REDACTED]

PICKUP OPTION:
 May 31st - I will pay my order up at the Edina, MN Plant Sale

Pickup Information:
 Pick-up your plants at the Edina Wild Ones Plant Sale
 Native Plant Sale on the date:
 Friday May 31st
 3-7pm

Location:
 Meetinghouse Church parking lot
 8200 Colonial Way
 Edina, MN 55436

Order Summary

ITEM	QTY	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Culver's Root (Veronicastrum virginicum) 3- pack of pots SQ513344 3-pack of 3" pots	1 ✓	\$15.00	\$15.00
Monarch Mania Garden Kit - 72 plants SQ518884 72 plant garden kit	1 ✓	\$164.00	\$164.00
Purple Prairie Clover (Dalisc purpurea) 3- pack of pots SQ885673 3-pack of 3" pots	1 ✓	\$15.00	\$15.00
New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus) 3- pack of pots SQ2820156 3-pack of 3" pots	1 ✓	\$18.00	\$18.00
Meadow Blazing Star (Liatris ligulistylis) 3- pack of pots SQ6479630 3-pack of 3" pots	2 ✓	\$18.00	\$36.00
Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparius) 3- pack of pots SQ2491941 3-pack of 3" pots	2 ✓	\$15.00	\$30.00
Item Subtotal			\$278.00
Shipping & Handling			\$0.00
Sales Tax			\$19.12
TOTAL			\$297.12

mother * earth * gardens
 MOTHER EARTH GARDENS
 1710 42nd Ave South, Suite
 110, Edina, MN 55436
 (612) 432-7200
 www.motherearthgardens.com

longfellow
 Served by: The Motherland
 Register: 12 Outdoor #2

Receipt
 16 May 2024 [REDACTED]

NATIVE SMALL \$5
 7% @ \$5.00 \$37.00

Subtotal \$170.00
 Tax (Minnesota Sales \$33.39
 Tax, 9.62%)

TOTAL (46 items) \$403.39

Credit
 Total: 16 May 24 8:09pm \$403.39

TRANS TYPE CREDIT
 TRANS NO.: [REDACTED]
 AID:
 Cryptogram: 88
 ENV TYP: 0000000000
 ENV TSI: E800
 ENV CUR: 3
 ACCEPTED

\$0.00

**ALL PLANT, SOIL, & MULCH
 SALES FINAL.
 OTHER ITEM RETURNS ACCEPTED
 WITHIN 30 DAYS WITH RECEIPT.
 CONSIGNMENT ITEMS RETURNABLE
 FOR STORE CREDIT ONLY.
 SALE-PRICED AND DISCOUNTED
 ITEMS ARE FINAL SALE.**

Receipts

- Ideally, your receipt will be itemized (i.e., lists the name of each item purchased). If your receipt does not show the names of the plants or materials you purchased, please also submit a photo of your plant tags or a written list of the plant/item names purchased.

Out Back Nursery
15280 110th Street South
Hastings, Minnesota
55033

Your Native Plant Purchase Matters

TOTAL
\$399.86

Items	Price
American Plum-8-12', 1.25" C: #1S Cont. (2 x \$160.45)	\$320.90
Discount	-\$20.90
Sweet Joe Pye Weed-#1 Cont.	\$9.95
Native Black Chokeberry-12-18" : #2 Cont.	\$25.00
Red-Twigged Dogwood-24-36" : #8 Cont.	\$34.00
SUBTOTAL	\$368.95
MINNESOTA STATE TAX (6.875%)	\$25.37
WASHINGTON CO TR (0.8%)	\$1.85
METRO AREA TRANSPORTATION (0.75%)	\$2.77
METRO AREA TAX FOR HOUSING (0.25%)	\$0.92
TOTAL	\$399.86

Transaction Record
Visa Purchase
AUTHORIZED
ACCT:-----
AUTH 023420
May 01, 2024, 03:40 PM
MID:-----
SOURCE: Chip
TSI: 6800
VISA Debit/Credit
(Classic)
(A00000000031010)
Verified by signature

Sold to: [REDACTED]
May 01, 2024, 03:40 PM
Receipt #2-1081

All WOODY PLANTS purchased at RETAIL price are warranted to live for one calendar year. Your plant in question will be replaced CHCE with the same or similar size and type plant. Warranty does not include other customer expenses, physical damages after purchase, plants not listed USDA Hardiness Zone. A no later, please consult us at [REDACTED]



Before and After Photos

Before photos

- 1-4 simple shots from far enough away to establish some context
- Make a note of where you took your photo from

After photos

- Take 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.



**Average
time spent
on projects:
15+ hours**

Other Lawns to Legumes Commitments

The following actions are **strongly encouraged** but **not required** for reimbursement:

- Native plants are sourced from within ~200 miles of your location
- Verify that your plants are free from systemic pesticides
- Pesticide and herbicide are not applied on the project site (this harms pollinators)
- Following through with project maintenance (weeding and watering)



Lawns to Legumes Grant Basics



your yard
CAN **BEE**
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes

Steps to a successful grant project:

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



Overview of project timeline + final reminders

Program Timeline

- Tuesday, February 17, 6-7:00 pm: Optional **Q+A Session** via Zoom
- Tuesday, February 24, 6-7:30 pm: Optional **Pollinator Plantings Project webinar**
- Tuesday, March 3, 6-7:30 pm: Optional **Pollinator Lawns Project webinar**



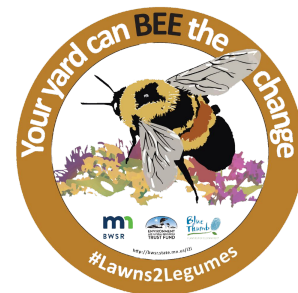
Program Timeline

- **Coach interest survey** in mid-February
- July 15, 2026: **Project Deadline**, reimbursement request must be submitted with all supporting documents by this time
 - Following reimbursement submissions, we'll mail you a L2L yard sign!

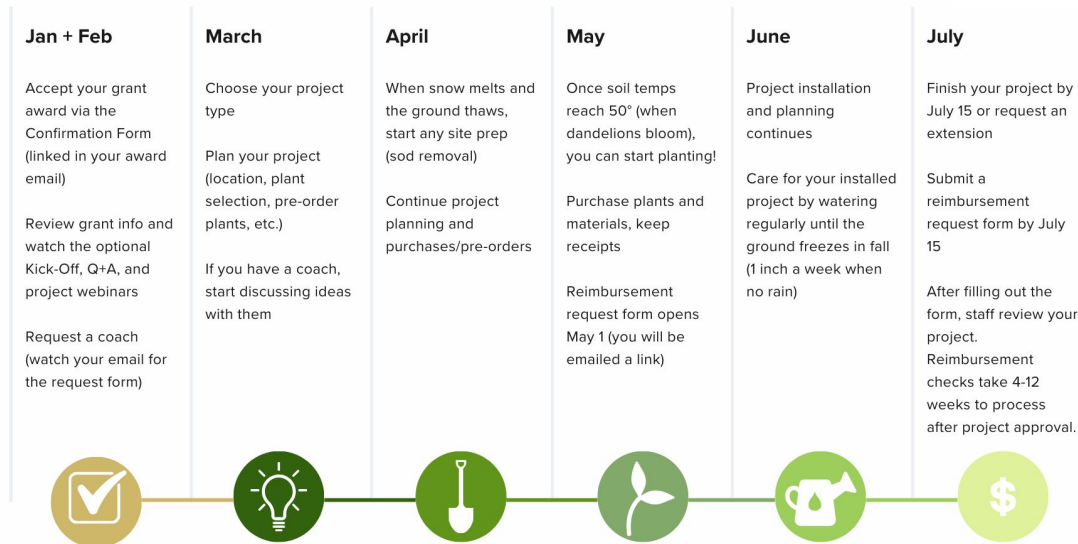


Program Timeline

A suggested project timeline and one-page checklist can be found on the Grantee Guide!



Example Lawns to Legumes Project Timeline (Spring Grant)



Lawns to Legumes Q+A Session

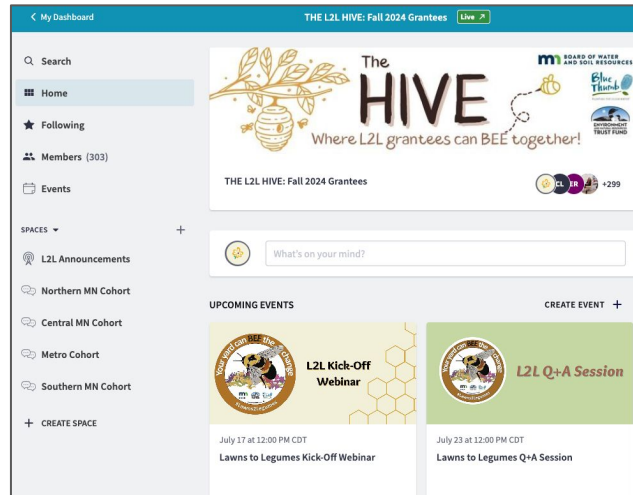
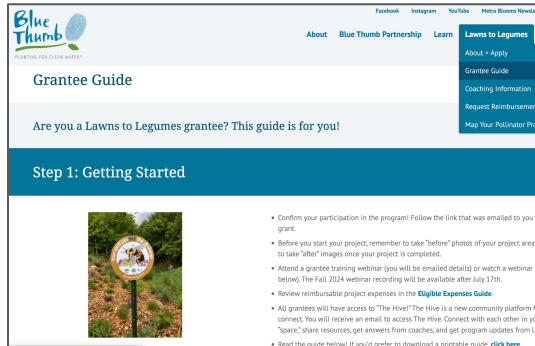
Tuesday, February 17, 6-7 pm, Zoom

- Submit your questions in this webinar Q+A or email them to the L2L Helpline: l2lhelp@bluethumb.org
- Check the FAQ at the bottom of the Grantee Guide first!
- The session will be recorded



When in doubt...

Go to these three places for help!



1 - Grantee Guide →

2 - The Hive →

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

Thank You!

