

# Lawns to Legumes

## Program Overview

### What does this program do?

Lawns to Legumes offers workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential yards. The program also campaigns to raise awareness for pollinator habitat projects and offers grants for community projects to create habitat corridors and showcase best practices.

Lawns to Legumes aims to protect the federally endangered rusty patched bumblebee (Minnesota's state bee) and other at-risk pollinators.

### Why does this matter?

Minnesota is home to more than 450 native bee species. Pollinators also include butterflies, moths, beetles and native flies. All play a key role in pollinating many food crops and native plants, but populations have significantly declined worldwide in recent years. Population decline can be attributed to habitat loss and lack of related nutrition for pollinators, as well as pesticide use and pathogens.

Even relatively small plantings of native flowers can help create conditions that are highly valuable to pollinators and can help build important habitat corridors.

### Am I eligible? How can I apply for funding?

Lawns to Legumes offer options for Minnesotans to put conservation on the ground in a way that works for them. More than 10,000 people have applied for Lawns to Legumes Individual Support reimbursement grants since the program launched in 2019, demonstrating Minnesotans' enthusiasm for protecting endangered pollinator species.

Minnesota residents can apply during active signup periods to be reimbursed for up to \$350 in costs associated with establishing pollinator habitat in their yards. Individual Support grant recipients must provide at least a 25% match for their total reimbursement request. Workshops and coaching are offered to recipients to ensure project success. Interested residents can apply on Blue Thumb's website <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>.

Workshops, free planting guides and online resources are available to anyone who wishes to pursue a DIY project. Visit [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l) for more information.



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

## Demonstration Neighborhoods

In addition to the Individual Support component of the program, Lawns to Legumes aims to establish high-profile community-wide projects called Demonstration Neighborhoods. Located in important pollinator pathways, these projects raise awareness about residential pollinator protection and showcase best practices.

As of January 2023, 26 Demonstration Neighborhood programs funded by BWSR are active statewide. Each project is overseen by a local government or nonprofit organization.

## Outreach and awareness

Lawns to Legumes strives to promote public adoption of residential pollinator habitat through a coalition of supportive groups including Blue Thumb, non profits and other supporters. Public outreach and education efforts raise awareness about issues affecting Minnesota pollinators.

## Getting started now

You don't have to wait to start planning a pollinator-friendly yard! Resources for planning projects can be found at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l). These include:

- Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide: BWSR's one-stop shop for creating residential pollinator habitat
- Pollinator Garden Templates: These templates provide base designs for native plant pollinator gardens, including boulevard and shade garden designs. They are customizable with substitutions for each plant.
- Native Plant Selection: BWSR's guide to high quality pollinator plants to provide blooms throughout the growing season.

### Top 10 native plants for Minnesota bumble bees

- Virginia bluebells
- Blazingstars
- Wild white indigo
- Milkweeds
- Goldenrods
- Beebalm
- Beardtongues
- Red columbine
- Asters
- Blue giant hyssop

