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Safeguard Project

Pollinator-promoting interventions in Eastern European urban areas – positive outcomes, challenges, and recommendations

Urbanisation is a major driver of biodiversity loss. However, pollinators can be supported in cities by food and nesting opportunities through the thoughtful management of green spaces.

Against this background, we investigated **the effects of extensive mowing and annual flower sowing on vegetation, floral resources and pollinators** in Hungary, and found that:

- 1 Extensively mown sites had taller and greener vegetation with more flowers and attracted more pollinators compared to frequently mown control sites.
- 2 Sown flower patches provided food resources and attracted pollinators primarily in the second half of the season. In spring and early summer, these areas were mostly unused by pollinators, as they were empty seedbeds or seedlings due to annual soil disturbance and reseeded.

Therefore, to develop urban ecosystems that are resilient to climate and environmental changes, we recommend:

- 1 Using primarily native and mostly perennial seed mixtures;
- 2 Combining different intervention types;
- 3 Planning for long-term outcomes;
- 4 Avoiding unplanned mowing.

The most effective approach would be to combine both intervention methods, for example, by overseeding existing green spaces with native species and managing them with a mosaic mowing regime.

Source

Süle, G., Kovács-Hostyánszki, A., Sárospataki, M. et al. First steps of pollinator-promoting interventions in Eastern European urban areas – positive outcomes, challenges, and recommendations. *Urban Ecosyst* 26, 1783–1797 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-023-01420-1>

