



Town of Hanson

Conservation Commission

542 Liberty Street
Hanson, Massachusetts 02341

Mowing Guidelines for the Meadows

1. Mowing should be done between September 15th and May 15th.
2. Mowing should be done from the “inside” to “outside”.
3. Blade height between 8” and 10”.
4. For Butterfly habitat: leave some areas (e.g. milkweed) un-mowed. These areas can be varied year to year. Manage some perimeter areas as “hedgerows”.
5. Frequency of mowing: every 1-2 years. Control of forbs, trees, and woody plants may require more frequent or earlier mowing. In general mow to the wood line to control.
6. For ground bird habitat cut material should be collected every 2-3 years.
7. Maintain close mowed perimeter trails. Post meadows **during nesting season** (May to September). No pedestrian or pet travel within the meadow and dogs must be leashed at all times.

References

Massachusetts DCR: *Grasslands Management*

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program: *Mowing Advisory Guidelines in Rare Turtle Habitat: Pastures, Successional Fields and Hayfields*

Massachusetts Butterfly Club: *Mowing Guidelines for Fields and Grasslands*

The Trustees of Reservations: *Ecological Management of Grasslands: Guidelines for Managers*

Voted and Approved by the Hanson Conservation Commission November 15, 2023