

Tip of the Month - April

Mowing to encourage native wildflowers and reduce weeds and fire danger

The simple trick of mowing your weeds BEFORE the seeds have matured will reduce their reappearance the following year substantially.

Starting in February as the non-native annual grasses and weeds start putting up their seed heads, cut them off before they mature. This will reduce their germination the following spring and allows the native wildflower seed bank, which is buried below to have a better opportunity to succeed. Once monthly mowing through the June and once again in August, keeps the accumulated dry plant material to a minimum, reducing fire danger, and reduces the maturation of weed seeds that mature later in the season (grasses, thistles, Dittrichia).

Mowing high (6-8") works well, but many people prefer to use a weed whacker to "mow" in-between patches of wildflowers that they'd like to encourage.

Talk to your landscape maintenance people to ensure that they are timing their mowing to get the maximum bang for the buck!!



Kite Hill in Woodside Glens after several years of selective mowing/weed-whacking to prevent the maturation of the seeds of invasive annual grasses and weeds.