



Fall 2026 Newsletter

Fall Pollinator Checklist

- Leave leaves beneath shrubs, trees, and in garden beds.
- Relocate leaves off of the lawn to prevent snow mold while still protecting overwintering insects.
- Protect undisturbed soil and leaf litter for ground-nesting bees and bumble bee queens.
- Leave seed heads for birds.
- Avoid unnecessary pesticides.
- Wait until late spring for major cleanup.



The bicolored striped
sweat bee

(*Agapostemon virescens*)
are native to Idaho and
nest underground.

IT'S OCTOBER: "LEAVE THE LEAVES" MONTH!

Join the "Leave the Leaves" Movement & Let the Leaves Stay to Help Southeast Idaho Pollinators Thrive!

Fall is a wonderful time to enjoy your yard and gardens—and to leave a little of it alone! Leaves, stems, seed heads, and undisturbed soil provide winter shelter and nesting places for native bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, and other wildlife.

SAVE THE STEMS AND PROTECT BEE NESTING SITES

Some native Idaho bees use hollow, soft, or pithy stems and other natural cavities for nesting.

These include small carpenter, mason, leafcutter, resin, and masked bees.

Leave stems from plants such as raspberries, currant, elderberry, goldenrod, sunflowers, and native asters!

Many Southeast Idaho bees, including mining, sweat, green sweat, cellophane, digger, and long-horned bees, nest in soil. Bumble bee queens also spend winter in protected places, often in soil, leaf litter, or other sheltered areas. In spring, they emerge and begin new colonies.

TIP: Leave stems at different heights and sizes, about 8–24 inches when possible. Keep some natural cavities and plant material in place year round.

A LITTLE MESS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

This fall, leave a little room for nature—and share the message with a neighbor! Together, we can make our communities more welcoming to pollinators and wildlife.