



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Episode 162:

Title: “No Mow May”

Duration: 16:22

How to use this transcript

Print this transcript:

- We try to reduce our paper consumption, but we really recommend that you print out this document.

Write on it and take notes:

- Circle, highlight and note anything that you want. We have even provided space for you to do so!

Listen first without the transcript:

- Don't worry about understanding every single word. Just focus on training your ears to the sound of English.

Listen again with the transcript:

- Listen a second time with the transcript, pausing whenever you want to take notes in the spaces provided.

Enjoy! :-)

00 :00	<p>Welcome to the Déclis Anglais Podcast, THE podcast for intermediate, French-speaking learners of English. This podcast is like a steppingstone (<i>un tremplin</i>) to help you understand more advanced materials in English. There is a transcript (<i>une transcription</i>) available for this and every episode of this podcast. You can download the transcript for free from the link in the description of this episode. Or go to www.declicanglais.com/podcast.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
01:06	<p>Hello there, dear listeners. Welcome to this episode of <i>The Déclis Anglais Podcast</i> - the podcast where we explore interesting ideas, all while helping you improve your English. For those of you who are new to the podcast, my name is Tom, I'm your host and guide on this podcast.</p> <p>Today, we're talking about a very green topic: your lawn (<i>vosre pelouse</i>), the big patch of grass (<i>l'herbe</i>) in your garden.</p> <p>Now, in the month of May, the sun is shining again and with the rain, there is an explosion in plant life! One day the grass is short, and then just a few days later you have a small jungle in your garden.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
02:22	<p>Now, any keen gardeners listening to this podcast will immediately think: it's time to get out the lawnmower and cut the grass, to mow the lawn! (<i>Tous les passionnés de jardinage qui écoutent ce podcast vont immédiatement se dire : « Il est temps de sortir la tondeuse et de tondre la pelouse ! »</i>)</p> <p>But, before you mow your lawn this May, I would like to talk to you about "No Mow May".</p> <p>So, "to mow" in French means <i>tondre</i>, so "to cut". We especially use "mow" in the context of grass. So, we don't "mow someone's hair". No, we "cut hair" – but we say that we "mow grass".</p> <p>Therefore, "No Mow May" means – don't cut your grass / don't mow your lawn in May! Leave the grass to grow.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

04:07	<p>Now, I can hear some of you saying: <i>“Mais non, Tom ! Je ne peux pas laisser l'herbe pousser comme ça en mai. En juin, j'aurais une véritable jungle dans mon jardin.”</i></p> <p>Well, that's the idea, dear listeners, that's the objective!</p> <p>In May, there is an explosion of flowers in your garden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clovers (<i>des trèfles</i>) - dandelions (<i>des pissenlits</i>) - buttercups (<i>des boutons d'or</i>) <p>...All of these flowers are essential food for pollinators.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
04:58 05:34	<p>Pollinators are insects that carry pollen from one flower to another, helping plants produce fruit and seeds. Bees (<i>des abeilles</i>), butterflies (<i>des papillons</i>), hoverflies (<i>des syrphes</i>) — they all do this work, they are all pollinators – pollinating insects.</p> <p>So, if you leave your lawn alone (if you don't mow your lawn) even for just a month, you can make a small but meaningful difference for these insects (<i>si vous ne tondez pas votre pelouse, ne serait-ce qu'un mois, vous pouvez faire une différence modeste mais significative pour ces insectes</i>), which are struggling in many parts of the world.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
06:20	<p><i>Tom, mais pourquoi est-ce que je devrais me soucier de quelques abeilles dans ma pelouse ? Il y a plein de nourriture ailleurs pour elles, non ?</i></p> <p>Well, dear listeners, due to human activity – no! These insects are in REAL trouble. And if they are in trouble, WE are in trouble too, because pollinators are essential for our own food supply (<i>les insectes pollinisateurs sont essentiels à notre propre approvisionnement alimentaire</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

07:13	<p>Many fruits and vegetables — apples, strawberries, tomatoes — depend on insects to pollinate their flowers. Without these insects, our gardens, farms, and supermarkets would look very different.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
07:34	<p>So you might be thinking: <i>“Mais est-ce que mon petit jardin peut vraiment changer quelque chose ?”</i></p> <p>The answer is a resounding “YES”, dear listeners. Even small gardens in urban areas can be important. Some studies have found that letting lawns grow a bit longer in May can increase the number of flowers and pollinators by up to 60% <i>(en laissant l'herbe pousser un peu plus en mai, on peut augmenter le nombre de fleurs et d'insectes pollinisateurs jusqu'à 60 %)</i>. So just a few extra centimetres of grass in your garden can make a real difference.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
08:39	<p>And it's not just about food. These pollinating insects also help maintain healthy ecosystems – they are all part of a much bigger circle. Lots of flowers means lots of insects, which means in turn lots of birds and small mammals. Even the trees are healthier. In short, these little insects are like little workers keeping our world green and alive.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

09:16	<p>Now, how do you actually participate in “No Mow May”? It’s simple, really:</p> <p>Don’t mow your lawn (obviously!)</p> <p>From the first of May until the last day of the month, don’t touch your lawnmower (<i>ne touchez pas à votre tondeuse</i>).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
09:45	<p>Now, if you have children or pets who often use your garden, you can certainly remove certain plants in a targeted way. So for example, if you have a big patch of nettles (<i>des orties</i>) growing in your garden, well it’s not ideal for children, is it? So of course, you can remove them.</p> <p>If you must remove certain plants, be sure to remove them without pesticides or herbicides – try not to use anything that might harm the pollinating insects.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
10:32	<p>And that’s it really - observe and enjoy! You will have bees, butterflies, and other insects in your lawn. You might even see bumblebees (<i>des bourdons</i>) building nests!</p> <p>To help our pollinating friends, you don’t even need a garden! Even if you live in an apartment with a small balcony, just a few flower pots can provide food and shelter for pollinators.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

11:09	<p>In a previous episode of this podcast, I explained that I am also an amateur beekeeper (<i>Dans un épisode précédent de ce podcast, j'ai expliqué que je suis également apiculteur amateur</i>).</p> <p>I first learned beekeeping (<i>apiculture</i>) from a retired policeman (<i>c'est un policier à la retraite qui m'a initié à l'apiculture</i>) – he was a member of the Metropolitan Police, London's police force. He even had beehives (<i>des ruches d'abeilles</i>) on top of the headquarters of the Bank of England!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
12:10	<p>This old beekeeper told me that his beehives in central London were especially productive. (<i>Cet apiculteur chevronné m'a dit que ses ruches situées dans le centre de Londres étaient particulièrement productives</i>).</p> <p>Why? Because in London, everyone has flower boxes on their balconies or in their windows as well as there being huge parks. And quite importantly, there aren't farmers spraying toxic pesticides!</p> <p>So, you see? Even if you have a tiny garden or even just flower pots on your balcony, you can help pollinators!</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
13:05	<p><i>Mais Tom, je ne veux pas trop d'abeilles dans mon jardin : je suis allergique aux piqûres d'abeilles !</i></p> <p>Yes, that's a good point – and it's entirely reasonable, especially if there is a health risk. And please don't put you or your family at risk unnecessarily. But keep in mind that bees are not overly aggressive during spring. They are far too busy foraging for food (<i>elles sont bien trop occupées à chercher de quoi manger</i>). ("To forage" means to look for food).</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>

13:50	<p>In the case of honeybees “<i>Apis mellifera</i>” (<i>les abeilles à miel</i>) – a honeybee will generally not attack you unless you are disturbing their hive. In the case of my honeybees, I can walk around my hives (<i>je peux me promener autour de mes ruches</i>) without any protection and the bees pay no attention to me. But if I touch a hive, if I start trying to open a hive... Ah, now <i>there</i> they start paying attention! So, don't worry about bees that are foraging in your garden.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
14:40	<p>If you are interested in participating in “No Mow May”, why not try planting pollinator-friendly flowers like lavender (<i>la lavande</i>). It smells great, and the bees love it!</p> <p>Did you know that bees can see the colour purple more clearly than any other colour? (<i>Saviez-vous que les abeilles perçoivent mieux la couleur violette que toute autre couleur ?</i>)</p> <p>So purple flowers (<i>like lavender!</i>) are especially attractive to bees – it's like a bright neon sign saying “food here!”</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>
15:35	<p>Alright then, dear listeners, we are coming to the end of this episode. So, this May, why not promote a little biodiversity and give “No Mow May” a try? Let your lawn grow a little. Watch the flowers bloom. Listen to the bees buzzing. You'll be surprised how rewarding it can be, not only for nature, but for your own well-being.</p> <p>I hope you have enjoyed today's episode, dear listeners! Take care of yourselves, and I look forward to seeing you in the next one.</p> <p>Bye for now.</p> <p><i>(Ecrivez vos notes ici).</i></p>