

Davis Farm Pollinator Meadow

After two years of trying to get ahead of invasive species in a 3/4 -acre area at Davis Farm and converting the space into a pollinator meadow, the Conservation Commission is starting to see the fruit of its labors. Working with a consultant the first year to manually remove invasive species, the invasives, particularly bittersweet, were too prevalent and aggressive for manual removal to be successful. So we implemented a solarization program where we installed black tarps to starve and suppress the invasive plants.

After being smothered in the summer heat last year, in the fall we scraped the soil from the solarization areas to remove the immediate seed source and seeded the area with a native wildflower mix. This effort was followed up by again manually removing invasive species throughout the meadow. This summer, we saw the first signs of success with a plethora of black-eyed susan and other wildflowers starting to rear their heads. The next season, we anticipate conducting another rounds of invasive species removal and plantings more native plants to improve diversity within the meadow for our pollinator species.

Emergence of native plant species in the Pollinator Meadow.
Inset: Solarization to suppress invasives in the meadow.

