

## Love Fireflies? You Can Help Them Survive

We all love chasing fireflies and watching them light up our gardens and yards in the summer months. Unfortunately, [like all insects, firefly populations are diminishing](#). But there are several things you can do at home to help conserve them.

- Turn off lights at night, and close blinds and curtains. This helps fireflies find each other so they can reproduce.
- Plant native plants to promote firefly-friendly habitat.
- If you have grass, don't mow it too often. It should be at least 4" high. Grass and other plants—especially native plants—provide a place for fireflies to live.
- Avoid pesticides, including herbicides, which kill beneficial insects including fireflies and/or the plants they eat.

Want to help even more? Register with the Firefly Atlas ([fireflyatlas.org](http://fireflyatlas.org)) and record your firefly sightings!



*Bruce Martin, Photuris lucicrescens (2003), Wikipedia. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5.*



## Resources

[Christian Schwägerl, "What's Causing the Sharp Decline in Insects, and Why It Matters," Yale Environment 360, July 6, 2016.](#)

[Firefly Atlas, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)

["Firefly Conservation," Xerces Society, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)

["How You Can Help," Firefly Conservation and Research, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)

["How You Can Help," Xerces Society, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)

["Firefly-Friendly Gardening," National Wildlife Federation, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)

[Midwest Region Office of Communications, "Your childhood may be gone, but do the fireflies have to go with it?," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Accessed June 24, 2026.](#)