

FPP02 - On-Farm Pilot Project



On-Farm Pilot Projects

On-Farm Pilots showcase conservation activities that have proven environmental benefits, but have not been widely adopted in the local farm community. Participants select and agree to install, monitor and promote conservation activities (practices, components or management techniques) that have been identified by the NRCS State Conservationist as addressing specific resource needs.

Land Use Applicability

Each approved pilot project will have a land use designated, e.g. Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland and/or Forest land.

Benefits

Conservation activities can show promise in research but until they are proven in actual field use farmers may be reluctant to adopt them. Pilot projects will provide a mechanism to prove that a new conservation activity is viable in the project area. Publicizing the implementation of the conservation activity can help other farmers learn about new conservation techniques by observing their peers.

Criteria for Demonstrations

- Producers will select from a pre-approved list of pilot project.
- Pilots include practices, components, or management techniques that have shown environmental benefits but have not been adopted by farmers in the project area.
- The pilots must be implemented and monitored according protocols developed specifically for the project.
- Protocols include:
 - Specifics of the practice, component or management technique being piloted
 - Acreage required to adequately conduct the pilot
 - How many years the pilot is to be conducted
 - What the participant is required to provide (materials, labor, maintenance etc.)
 - Type(s) of publicized events that will be used (field days, signage, winter meetings, etc.) to meet the minimum number of three (3) events. This activity will be schedule once per year that an educational event takes place.



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- Data on the costs and performance must be collected for the demonstration project as specified for each individual pilot project. The data collection needs are available in a separate document.

Documentation Requirements

- Documentation of the events held to publicize the demonstration.
- Data collected for the demonstration will include as directed by the individual states:
 - Practice cost, field operations conducted, etc.
 - Frequency of collection
 - Data collection forms

Michigan Supplement

On-Farm Pilot Project - FPP02 - Pollinator Habitat Planting

Purpose: To promote establishment of pollinator habitat plantings.

- This pilot is offered statewide.
- The participant is responsible for the planning, installation, and maintenance of the pollinator habitat.
- The participant must participate in the pilot for a minimum of 3 years to allow time for establishment of the pollinator area and data collection.
- Participants must conduct 3 events to publicize the project to other farmers in the area. Events can take place in any of the 3 years of participation in the pilot.
- Sites for the pollinator planting need to be: 0.25 – 0.5 acres, preferably a field border area near a crop field or orchard.
- The seeding mix to be used:
 - See page 2 through 4 for a list of recommended plant species. Refer to seed supplier documentation for seeding rate recommendations, or the Michigan conservation practice standard, Conservation Cover (327).
 - Plant two or three species from each bloom period category throughout the habitat planting.

Data to be collected by the participant:

- Cost of installing the pollinator area
- Pictures of the area during the growing season each year
- Presence of native pollinator insects in pollinator habitat area
- Presence of native pollinator insects in crop production area

This enhancement will be scheduled for a minimum of 3 years, beginning in the year of establishment, in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT).

References

- Setting Up On-Farm Experiments (SSMG-17) and Simple On-Farm Comparisons (SSMG-18) www.ipni.net/ssmg
- Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Flowering Plants nativeplants.msu.edu/pdf/E2973.pdf
- Five Keys to Successful Grass Seeding in Michigan www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/mipmcbr7264.pdf

Plants suitable for pollinator habitat listed by specified region follow.

Northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula

Trees & Shrubs

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	downy serviceberry
<i>Arctostaphylos uvaursi</i>	kinnikinnick
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	common buttonbush
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	bunchberry dogwood
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	cockspur hawthorn
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	eastern teaberry
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American witch-hazel
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	common winterberry
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	chokecherry
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	staghorn sumac
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	black elderberry
<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American mountain ash
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	low sweet blueberry
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	mapleleaf viburnum

Vines

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American bittersweet yellowish
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	twinflower
<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	limber honeysuckle
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry

Wildflowers

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>	eastern monkshood
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	red baneberry
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red columbine
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	harebell
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	flat-topped aster
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	joe-pye weed
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	closed bottle gentian
<i>Geum rivale</i>	water avens
<i>Hepatica nobilis var. acuta</i>	sharplobe hepatica
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	harlequin blueflag
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamont
<i>Packera aurea</i>	golden ragwort
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	tall beardstongue
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	obedient plant
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	narrow leaf blue-eyed grass
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	red trillium
<i>Veratrum viride</i>	green false hellebore
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canadian white violet
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden Alexanders

Southern Lower Peninsula**Trees & Shrubs**

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer</i> spp.	maples
<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	serviceberry
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud
<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	viburnum
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	northern catalpa
<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	blueberry
<i>Sambucus</i> spp.	elderberry
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush
<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	black cherry
<i>Rhus</i> spp.	sumacs
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry
<i>Cornus</i> spp.	dogwood
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	eastern ninebark

Wildflowers

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red columbine
<i>Sanguinaria Canadensis</i>	bloodroot
<i>Viola</i> spp.	violets
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	daisy fleabanes
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	trout lily
<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	joe-pye weed
<i>Gentiana</i> spp.	gentians
<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	sunflowers
<i>Iris</i> spp.	iris
<i>Monarda</i> spp.	beebalm
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	beardtongue
<i>Phlox</i> spp.	phlox
<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	black-eyed Susan
<i>Solidago</i> spp.	goldenrods
<i>Packera</i> spp.	ragworts
<i>Trillium</i> spp.	trillium
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	spiderworts
<i>Symphotrichum</i> spp.	aster
<i>Lobellia</i> spp.	lobelia
<i>Coreopsis</i> spp.	tickseed

Vines

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	trumpet creeper
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	trumpet honeysuckle
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	virgin's bower
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper
<i>Vitis</i> spp.	grapes

- Refer to the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) Section II, Folder I, Michigan Native Plant Producers.