

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM08 – Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat



Enhancement Description

Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and pastureland

Benefits

Intensively managed agricultural land does not provide the habitat required for many species of birds and animals. By establishing or improving the composition and structure of native plant species in non-cropped areas, essential habitat will provide wildlife, including pollinators, with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather.

Criteria

1. Vegetation type will primarily be native to the site or recognized by NRCS standards as suitable wildlife and pollinator habitat. Vegetation density will be sufficient to control erosion, retard sediment from leaving the site, and to permit runoff water to be of high quality. Livestock will be excluded from the site unless prescribed grazing is identified in the management prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.
2. If the non-cropped area is being managed as early successional habitat, it will be maintained by prescribed fire, periodic disking or suitable mechanical disturbance, prescribed grazing, or selective herbicide application. Maintenance activities will be conducted outside of the nesting/fawning season or by NRCS prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.
3. If the non-cropped area is being managed as woodland, tree species typically associated with natural site conditions will be planted and/or maintained. Woodland patches will not be smaller than 1 acre and minimum width will be 90 feet. Woodland patches included in this enhancement will not be harvested or cut for firewood during the contract. Natural understory vegetation snags and down woody material will be maintained naturally.
4. Any existing wetlands used as the non-cropped areas for wildlife will be at least ½ acre in size and will be surrounded by a minimum of 33 feet of vegetation. See number 1 above.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

5. Invasive, exotic vegetation must be controlled in all managed non-cropped habitat.

Documentation Requirements

1. Map showing areas and size to be treated
2. Identify what type of land use applies to each area
3. Documentation of the existing plant species

Michigan Supplement

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM08 – Improve the Plant Diversity and Structure of Non-Cropped Areas for Wildlife Food and Habitat

The following plant species and seed mixes will improve the wildlife habitat value of non-cropland areas.

General Mixtures for Wildlife Habitat

Mix	Recommended species
Short-Grass Prairie Planting (mesic through dry sites)	Little bluestem
	Canada wild rye
	June grass (or appropriate substitute)
	Forbs (7-20 species)
Moderate-Height Prairie Planting (wet mesic through dry sites)	Little bluestem
	Indian grass
	Big bluestem
	Canada wild rye
	Switchgrass
	Forbs (7-20 species)
Tall Grass Prairie Planting (wet mesic through dry sites)	Big bluestem
	Indian grass
	Switchgrass
	Canada wild rye
	Forbs (7-20 species)
Tall Grass Prairie Planting (wet mix intended for mineral hydric soils <u>not</u> muck)	Prairie cord grass
	Big bluestem
	Switchgrass
	Forbs (7-20 species)

Native Wildflowers**Dry Sites**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Color	Sun Needs*	Height	Blooming Season
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	yell/brown	f-p	1-3 ft	Jun-Aug.
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	orange	f-p	2-3 ft	July-Aug.
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	purple	f-p-s	3-5 ft	June-Aug
Gray-headed coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	yellow	f	3-5 ft	July-Sept.
Hairy Beardstongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	white/lavender	f-p	1-2 ft	May-July
Lance-leaved coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	yellow	f	1-2 ft	May-Aug.
Leadplant**	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	violet	f	2-4 ft	June-July
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	purple	f	1-4 ft	Sept.-Oct.
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pupurea</i>	purple	f-p	2-4 ft	July-Aug.
Rough blazingstar	<i>Liatrus aspera</i>	purple	f-p	2-4 ft	July-Sept.
Round headed bushclover	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	white	f-p	2-3 ft	Aug-Sept.
Smooth aster	<i>Aster laevis</i> (<i>Symphyotrichum leave</i>)	lavender	f	2-3 ft	Aug.-Sept.
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i> (<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>)	yellow	f	1-3 ft	July-Aug.
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	pink-lavender	f	2-3 ft	June-July
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	blue-lavender	f-p-s	1-2 ft	June-July

Mesic Sites

Common Name	Scientific Name	Color	Sunlight Needs*	Height	Blooming Season
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	yellow/brown	f-p	1-3 ft	June-Aug.
Blazingstar	<i>Liatris</i> spp.	purple	f-p	2-4 ft	July-Sept.
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	orange	f-p	2-3 ft	July-Aug.
Hairy beadstongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	white/lavender	f-p	1-2 ft	May-July
Lance-leaved coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	yellow	f	1-2 ft	May-Aug.
Leadplant**	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	violet	f	2-4 ft	June-July
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> (<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>)	rose/purple	f-p-s	1-4 ft	Sept.-Oct.
Ox-eye sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	yellow	f	2-3 ft	July-Sept.
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pupurea</i>	rose	f-p	2-4 ft	July-Aug.
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i> (<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>)	yellow	f	2-5 ft	Aug.-Sept.
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	lavender	f	2-3 ft	June-July
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	blue-violet	f-p-s	1-2 ft	June-July
Yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	yellow	f	2-3 ft	June-July

Wet Sites

Common Name	Scientific Name	Color	Sunlight Needs*	Height	Blooming Season
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue/purple	f-p	2-4 ft	July-Sept.
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	white	f-p	3-4 ft.	July-Aug.
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	red	f-p	2-4 ft.	July-Sept.
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	blue-violet	f-p	1-4 ft	Aug-Sept.
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	yellow	f	1-2 ft.	Apr.-June
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> (<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>)	rose/purple	f-p-s	1-4 ft	Sept.-Oct.
Spotted Joe pye-weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> (<i>Eupatoriadelphus mactulatus</i>)	rose	f	2-6 ft	July-Sept.
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	lavender	f	2-4 ft	July-Aug.
Northern blue flag iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	purple	f-p	2-3 ft	June
Southern blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevei</i>	purple	f-p	2-3 ft	June

* f = full sunlight, p = partial sunlight, s = shade

** Michigan genotype required

Additional Criteria:

Maintenance activities will be conducted outside the primary nesting/fawning season, which is between April 15 and August 1.