

Pollinator Habitat

Conservation Reserve Program Job Sheet

CP42



Definition

Pollinator habitats are areas of permanent vegetation located in an agricultural landscape: field edges, field middles, odd corners, or virtually any location that is suited for pollinator habitat. Vegetation consists of acceptable herbaceous and/or woody plants.

Resource management system

Pollinator habitat is normally established as part of a conservation management system that addresses the soil, water, air, plant, and animal needs, including wildlife, and the owner's objectives.

Wildlife

Plantings for pollinator habitat can enhance wildlife objectives. Benefits depend on the plant species used and management practiced. Use plant species that can provide food and cover for pollinators during the spring, summer and fall. A minimum of 0.5 acre of contiguous pollinator habitat is required to provide pollinators with enough space to find food, nesting sites, and to provide some safety from human-related impacts like spraying, tilling, and mowing.



Purpose

Pollinator habitat will provide wildlife food and cover, reduce soil erosion from water, and protect soil and water quality. Specifically, pollinator habitat will provide nectar and pollen sources for pollinators, and offer low-disturbance areas for nesting and egg-laying.

Operation and maintenance

Inspect and repair pollinator habitat areas after storms to fill in gullies, remove sediment, reseed disturbed areas, and take other measures to ensure the effectiveness of the habitat. Do not mow or burn during the nesting season (normally May through July) to protect ground-nesting wildlife. In place of mowing, consider other vegetative management techniques, such as "wickbar" herbicide applicators, or prescribed burning. After plants are successfully established (typically two years after planting), no more than 30 percent of a pollinator planting may be mowed in any one year.

Specifications

Site-specific recommendations are listed following this section. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, the Conservation Cover practice standard (327), and current information on pollinator biology.

Pollinator Habitat (CP42) – Site Specific Recommendations

Landowner _____ Field number(s) _____

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce erosion from water	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide wildlife food and cover
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil and water quality protection	<input type="checkbox"/> List additional benefits

Layout	Field #:	Field #:	Field #:
Area (acres)			

Woody Plant Materials Information				
Tree or Shrub species/cultivars:	Plants/acre	Kind of stock ¹	Planting dates	Avg. Spacing ²
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
TOTAL				

RECOMMENDED SPECIES, SEEDING RATES AND SEEDING DATES

¹BAreroot, COntainer, CUtting, SSeed; include size, stem dia., height, and age as applicable. ²Spacing between plants that matches Plants/acre.

Herbaceous Plant Materials Information

See *Pollinator Habitat Seed Mixes* on the following pages for species lists, seeding rates and other related information.

<p><i>Apply lime as indicated by soil testing; fertilizers are not recommended, as they will promote weed growth as much as flower growth. Prepare a firm seedbed if tillage is used. List additional requirements:</i></p>
<p>Planting Method – No till establishment is highly recommended</p> <p><i>Pre-treat pollinator habitat areas with a burn-down herbicide in April or May, then mow as needed throughout the summer, then spray with another burn-down herbicide in late September or early October. <u>For no-till seeding:</u> In mid October, drill pollinator seed mix $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep uniformly over area using a no-till drill set up for native grasses or other "fluffy" seeds. <u>For broadcast seeding:</u> lightly disk the habitat area, then broadcast the seed using a carrier like rice hulls, cat litter, etc., then firm the seedbed with a cultipacker or equipment with flotation tires. Sew seed at the specified seeding rate of 4 lbs per acre. If necessary, mulch newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of _____ mulch. Oats may be used as a companion crop, at the rate of 1 bu/ac, if necessary to prevent erosion. Clip any oats that do not winter kill on their own.</i></p> <p><i>List additional requirements:</i></p>
<p>Operation and Maintenance</p> <p><i>Maintain original layout of pollinator habitat(s). Actively manage habitat(s) to avoid establishment of noxious or invasive plants. Mow, burn, reseed, and fertilize as necessary to maintain plant density and vigorous plant growth. Inspect after major storms; if necessary, remove any trapped sediment and repair any eroding areas. BE CAREFUL TO AVOID THE DRIFTING OF HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES FROM NEARBY FARM OPERATIONS ONTO POLLINATOR HABITAT(S), as these are often toxic or harmful to the pollinators which will be using the habitat.</i></p> <p><i>List additional requirements:</i></p>

Dry Site' Seed Mix for PA Pollinator Habitats

to be used for: upland areas, dry sites, or other well-drained sites. (Well drained and Moderately well drained soils)

	% in mix	bloom color and period		
		early	mid	late
Alsike clover* (<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>)	2.0			
Crimson clover* (<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>)	2.0			
Blue flax* (<i>Linum perenne</i>)	5.0			
Wild hairy beardtongue (<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>)	8.0 or more			
Ohio spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>)	5.0 or more			
Virginia spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>)	5.0 or more			
Yellow sweet clover* (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)	2.0			
Blue false indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>)	8.0 or more			
Partridge pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)	7.0 or more			
Wild bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)	6.0 or more			
Purple coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	4.0 or more			
Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	8.0 or more			
Tall white beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>)	8.0 or more			
Milkweed, common (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>)	6.0 or more			
Purple giant hyssop* (<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>)	8.0			
Gray goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)	7.0 or more			
Mistflower (<i>Conoclinium coelostinium</i>)	6.0 or more			
Virginia mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)	4.0 or more			
Blazing star / Gayfeather (<i>Liatris spicata</i>)	8.0 or more			
New England aster (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>)	7.0 or more			p
Giant sunflower (<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>)	3.0 or more			c

*non-native

p = petal, c = center

Due to yearly changes in seed availability, some seeds may not always be available. As a result, NRCS provides the following guidelines, which apply to every seed mix used:

1. **At least three plants from each grouping (early, mid-, or late season blooming) will be included in the mix.**
2. **As many different plants as possible from each group will be included in the mix.** Increasing the diversity of plants will increase the variety and number of pollinators that use the planted area.
3. **The % of each plant in the mix may vary based on the total number of plants used.** However, the % of seed used **will not** drop below the amount given in the tables above. For non-native species marked with an *, only the % of seed listed above should be used--no more or no less. For example, any clover used should only be 2% of the final mix, purple giant hyssop should only be 8% of the mix, and so on.
4. **Seed will be planted at a minimum rate of 4 pounds per acre;** higher rates (up to 8 pounds per acre) may be used if desired.

'Wet Site' Seed Mix for PA NRCS Pollinator Projects

to be used for: flooded riparian borders, wet sites, poorly drained sites. (Somewhat poorly drained and Poorly drained soils)

	% of mix	bloom color and period		
		early	mid	late
Alsike clover* (<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>)	2.0			
Crimson clover* (<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>)	2.0	Red		
Ohio spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>)	5.0 or more	Blue		
Virginia spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>)	5.0 or more	Blue		
Bee balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	4.0 or more		Red	
Monkey flower (<i>Mimulus ringens</i>)	6.0 or more		Cyan	
Yellow sweet clover* (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)	2.0		Yellow	
Swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)	5.0 or more		Pink	
New York aster (<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>)	11.0 or more		p (purple) c (yellow)	
Great blue lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>)	5.0 or more			Blue
Common boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)	10.0 or more			White
Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	4.0 or more			Red
Blue vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)	11.0 or more			Blue
Wingstem / yellow ironweed (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>)	11.0 or more			Yellow
Joe-pye weed (<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>)	10.0 or more			Pink
Mistflower (<i>Conoclinium coelostinium</i>)	5.0 or more			Purple

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4. **Seed will be planted at a minimum rate of 4 pounds per acre;** higher rates (up to 8 pounds per acre) may be used if desired.

Additional Specifications or Details:

Check Out and Certification Requirements:

I certify that the above Design and Installation requirements (circle one) *have / have not* been met in accordance with the criteria of the CRP Conservation Practice CP42. The _____ acres of this practice installed on the locations covered by this job sheet were installed on the date(s) of _____.

Signature of Designated Conservationist or Technical Service Provider Date

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