CSP-Conservation Stewardship Program

Pollinators - Nectar Corridors

A CSP On-Farm Pilot Project

Agricultural productivity is directly dependent on pollinators. Approximately 75% of all cultivated crops require pollination to produce seed and fruit. The majority of pollinators are insects but some birds and bats also play a major role. The services of native pollinators are worth an estimated $4.1 billion dollars a year to U.S. agriculture. Both native and domestic pollinators are disappearing, largely due to habitat loss. Nectar corridors can provide the proper habitat for pollinators as well as other resource benefits.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity to promote the use of nectar producing plant corridors in conservation practices such as field borders, windbreaks and riparian buffers .

This Pilot Project

is a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancement and consists of the installation monitoring and publicizing of the results obtained.

It will last two years and requires the installation of at least one habitat practice. The producer will conduct three events to publicize the project to other producers.
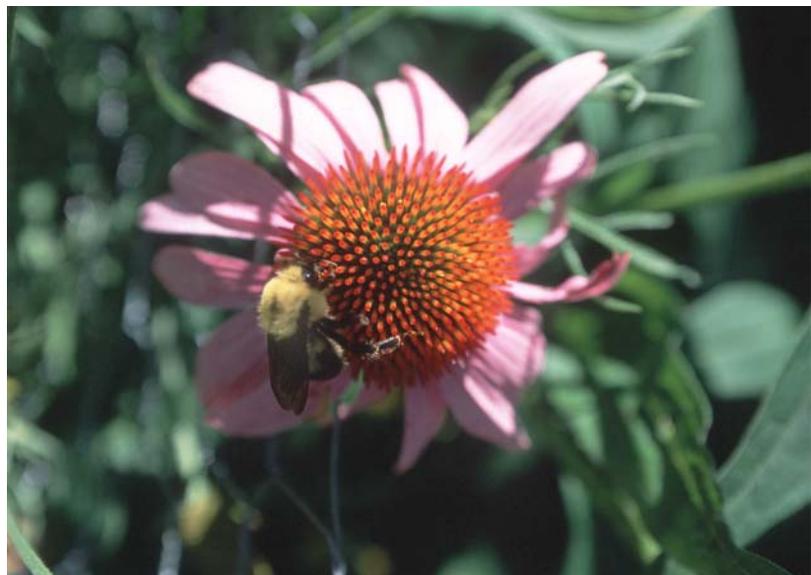
Start Date

The pilot project needs to be scheduled to start within the first three years of the CSP contract.

Participant Share

The participant is responsible for all aspects of implementation of the project.

Bumble bees like the one in the picture can do the work of multiple honey bees.

Establishing Nectar Corridors

Nectar corridors should be at least ½ acre in size and include at least one early, mid and late flowering species from the following table. The corridor must remain undisturbed throughout the growing season or period of bloom. Management or maintenance activities such as mowing, haying or grazing must be conducted outside of the growing season.

Insecticides kill pollinators and should not be used in the corridor. Herbicides destroy plants that provide food and shelter for pollinators. Even natural herbicides and botanical insecticides can harm bees. Invasive species should be controlled using the least intrusive method. If pesticides are used in adjoining fields, consider applying them in the evening when most insect pollinators are not active.

Plants recommended in Pennsylvania for Nectar Corridors

Pollinator Seed Mixes

Dry Site Mix-- to be used for: *upland areas, dry sites, or other well-drained sites.*

(Well drained and Moderately well drained soils)	% of mix	bloom color	bloom period
Alsike clover* *(Trifolium hybridum)*	3.0		early
Crimson clover* *(Trifolium incarnatum)*	3.0	red	
Blue flax* *(Linum perenne)*	5.0	light blue	
Wild blue lupine *(Lupinus perennis)*	5.0	blue	
Virginia spiderwort *(Tradescantia virginiana)*	5.0	dark blue	
Yellow sweet clover* *(Melilotus officinalis)*	3.0	yellow	mid
Blue false indigo *(Baptisia australis)*	8.0	dark blue	
Partridge pea *(Chamaecrista fasciculata)*	6.0	yellow	
Spotted beebalm *(Monarda punctata)*	7.0	lavender	
Butterfly weed *(Asclepias tuberosa)*	8.0	orange	
Tall white beardtongue *(Penstemon digitalis)*	8.0	white	
Milkweed, common *(Asclepias syriaca)*	6.0	pink	
Purple giant hyssop *(Agastache scrophulariifolia)*	5.0	purple	late
Mistflower / Wild ageratum *(Conoclinum coelostinium / Eupatorium coelestinium)*	7.0	lavender	
Virginia mountain mint *(Pycnanthemum virginianum)*	3.0	white	
St. John's wort, common *(Hypericum perforatum)*	4.0	yellow	
Blazing star / Gayfeather *(Liatris spicata)*	7.0	pink	
New England aster *(Aster novae-angliae)*	7.0	p — purple, c — yellow	

p = petal, c = center

Wet Site Mix-- to be used for: *flooded riparian borders, wet sites, poorly drained sites.*

(Somewhat poorly drained and Poorly drained soils)	% of mix	bloom color	bloom period
Alsike clover* *(Trifolium hybridum)*	4.0		early
Crimson clover* *(Trifolium incarnatum)*	5.0	red	
Virginia spiderwort *(Tradescantia virginiana)*	5.0	dark blue	
Bee balm *(Monarda didyma)*	4.0	red	mid
Monkey flower *(Mimulus ringens)*	6.0	light blue	
Yellow sweet clover* *(Melilotus officinalis)*	4.0	yellow	
Swamp milkweed *(Asclepias incarnata)*	5.0	white	
New York aster *(Aster novi-belgii)*	11.0	p — purple, c — yellow	
Great blue lobelia *(Lobelia syphilitica)*	5.0	blue	late
Common boneset *(Eupatorium perfoliatum)*	10.0	white	
Cardinal flower *(Lobelia cardinalis)*	4.0	red	
Blue vervain *(Verbena hastata)*	11.0	dark blue	
Wingstem / yellow ironweed *(Verbesina alternifolia)*	11.0	yellow	
Joe-pye weed *(Eupatorium fistulosum)*	10.0	pink	
Mistflower / Wild ageratum *(Conoclinum coelostinium / Eupatorium coelestinium)*	5.0	lavender	

p = petal, c = center