

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
9173 West Barnes Dr., Ste C
Boise, ID 83709
Phone: 208-378-5700
Fax: 208-378-5735

Ron Abbott, Farm Programs Chief
USDA, Farm Service Agency
9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite B
Boise, Idaho 83709

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Sherrie Brooks, Farm Program Specialist
USDA, Farm Service Agency
9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite B
Boise, ID 83709

SUBJECT: Idaho CRP – Pollinator Mixtures

Dear Ron and Sherri,

National Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rules indicate that nine (9) pollinator species; (three flowering in each of the three flowering periods - early, mid and late) should be included in the pollinator seed mixtures as part of the ranking criteria for CP42 Pollinator Habitat. However, 9 pollinator species, especially those flowering late, are often not commercially available to include in the seed mixtures for the lower precipitation zones of southern Idaho.

For precipitation zones below 16 inches of mean annual rainfall, NRCS recommends that the CRP rules allow an exception to require only 5 pollinator species for the CP42 Pollinator Habitat seeding mixture. The mix should include species that cover at least two flowering periods in this case.


Jeff Burwell
State Conservationist

Attachments: Cover Mixes for Idaho CRP - Pollinators
Species List For Pollinators – Idaho CRP

Cc: Bob Tribelhorn, ASTC, Operations West, NRCS, Moscow, ID
Dave Schmidt, ATSC, Operations East, NRCS, Pocatello, ID
Gene Schock ASTC, Technical Services, NRCS, Boise, ID
Dan Ogle, Plant Materials Specialist, NRCS, Boise, ID
Brendan Brazee, State Range Specialist, NRCS, Boise, ID
Karen Fullen, State Biologist, NRCS, Boise, ID
Sal Palazzolo, Farm Bill Coordinator, IDFG, Boise, ID

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EXAMPLES: CP42 Pollinator Habitat - Mixed stand of native grasses (no more than 25% of mixture) and combination of 5 to 9 flowering forbs, legumes or shrubs planted for pollinator habitat.

8-12	Loamy Shallow Gravelly Saline, Calcareous	Wheatgrass, Snake River	0.6 lbs. PLS
		Bluegrass, Big/Sandberg	0.2 lbs. PLS
		Wheatgrass, Slender	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Sweetclover, Yellow	0.6 lbs. PLS
		Yarrow, Western	0.1 lbs. PLS
		Globemallow	0.2 lbs. PLS
		Beeplant	1.0 lbs PLS
		Rabbitbrush	0.05 lbs. PLS
		Saltbush, Fourwing	0.2 lbs. PLS
		Sagebrush, Wyoming Big	0.05 lbs. PLS
		12-16	Loamy Shallow Gravelly Eroded, Stony Saline, Calcareous
Bluegrass, Big	0.2 lbs. PLS		
Wheatgrass, Slender	0.5 lbs. PLS		
Alfalfa	0.5 lbs PLS		
Blue flax	0.5 lbs. PLS		
Yarrow, Western	0.1 lbs. PLS		
Sunflower	0.5 lbs. PLS		
Sweetclover, Yellow	0.4 lbs. PLS		
Rose, Woods	0.1 lbs.PLS		
Sagebrush, Wyoming Big	0.03 lbs. PLS		
Rabbitbrush	0.05 lbs. PLS		
8-16	Sandy	Ricegrass, Indian	1.0 lbs. PLS
		Dropseed, sand	0.1 lbs. PLS
		Wheatgrass, Thickspike	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Alfalfa	0.5 lbs PLS
		Penstemon, Sand	0.5 lbs PLS
		Beeplant, Yellow	1.0 lbs.PLS
		Yarrow, Western	0.1 lbs. PLS
		Sunflower	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Rabbitbrush	0.05 lbs.PLS
		Sumac, Skunkbush	Plants
		Sagebrush, Basin Big	0.05 lbs. PLS
Saltbush, Fourwing	0.2 lbs. PLS		
16-30+	Loamy Shallow Gravelly Eroded Acidic Soils	Wheatgrass, Bluebunch	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Brome, Mountain	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Fescue, Idaho	0.5 lbs PLS
		Wildrye, Blue	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Burnet, Small	2.0 lbs. PLS
		Coneflower	0.8 lbs.PLS
		Clover, Alsike or Ladino	0.4 lbs.PLS
		Blanket-flower	0.6 lbs.PLS
		Penstemon, Rocky Mtn	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Penstemon, Venus	0.5 lbs. PLS
		Sainfoin	2.0 lbs.PLS
		Serviceberry	Plants
		Snowberry	Plants
Sagebrush, Mtn. Big	0.03 lbs. PLS		

Sagebrush and winterfat should be placed on the soil surface - do not bury seed.

Saltbush seed can be drilled in mix with other species in the mix.

Establishment of forbs is very difficult. Sweetclover is a biennial that will only be present in wet years and the year immediately following wet years. Do not expect sweetclover to be present during extended periods of drought.

SPECIES LIST FOR POLLINATORS – IDAHO CRP

The species listed below are only recommendations. Other appropriate plants may be available. Refer to NRCS Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note Number 2A, 2B and 24 for alternate species, recommended seeding rates, seeding depths, etc. In some cases native grasses, forbs, legumes or shrubs may be invading CRP stands naturally and this invasion may be considered part of the mix based on an actual site visit. *Seeding rates are full drill rates – Broadcast planting, increase rate by 150-200 percent – Use percentage of these rates.

NATIVE GRASSES – not to exceed 25% of the pollinator seed mix

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Releases</u>	PLS*	
		<u>PPT</u>	<u>Lbs/Ac</u>
Bluegrass, Big	'Sherman'	9 +	2
Bluegrass, Nevada	Opportunity	9 +	2
Bluegrass, Sandberg	High Plains, Reliable, Mountain Home	8 +	2
Brome, Mountain	'Bromar', 'Garnet'	16 +	10
Dropseed, Sand		7 +	1
Fescue, Idaho	'Nezpurs', Winchester	16 +	4
Needlegrass, Thurber		8 +	6
Ricegrass, Indian	'Nezpar' 'Rimrock'	8 +	6
Squirreltail, Big '	'Sand Hollow'	12 +	6
Squirreltail, Bottlebrush	'Fish Cr.', 'Toe Jam', Rattlesnake	8 +	6
Wheatgrass, Bluebunch	Anatone, 'Goldar', 'P7'	12 +	8
Wheatgrass, Slender	'First Strike', Copperhead, 'Pryor'	10 +	6
Wheatgrass, Snake River	'Secar', 'Discovery'	8 +	8
Wheatgrass, Thickspike	'Bannock', 'Critana', 'Sodar'	8 +	6
Wildrye, Basin	'Magnar', 'Trailhead', 'Continental'	8 +	8
Wildrye, Blue		16 +	8

NATIVE FORBS AND LEGUMES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Flowering</u>	PLS	
			<u>PPT</u>	<u>Lbs/Ac</u>
Aster species		mid, late	12 +	2
Biscuitroot, Fernleaf		early	12 +	6
Blanket-flower		mid, late	16 +	6
Columbine		early, mid	16 +	2
Coneflower		mid, late	14 +	8
Flax, Lewis	Maple Grove	early, mid	10 +	5
Gayfeather or Blazing Star	'Eureka'	mid	24 +	10
Geranium		early, mid	16 +	10
Globemallow species		early, mid	7 +	2
Penstemon, Firecracker	Richfield	early	10 +	4
Penstemon, Palmer	'Cedar'	early	10 +	4
Penstemon, Rocky Mountain	'Bandera'	early, mid	18 +	4
Penstemon, Venus	Clearwater	early, mid	16 +	2
Prairieclover species		mid	14 +	4
Prairie Smoke		early	18 +	2
Sweetvetch, Northern (Utah)	'Timp'	early, mid	12 +	10
Sunflower species		mid, late	12 +	4
Yarrow, Western	Eagle, Great Northern	mid, late	8 +	0.5

INTRODUCED FORBS AND LEGUMES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Flowering</u>	<u>PPT</u>	<u>PLS Lbs/Ac</u>
Alfalfa	'Ladak', 'Trevois', 'Spreador'	early, mid	12 +	5
Beeplant, Yellow or Rky Mtn		early	8+	10
Burnet, Small	'Delar'	mid, late	14 +	20
Clover, Alsike		early	18 +	3
Clover, Red		early	18 +	6
Clover, Strawberry		early, mid	18 +	4
Clover, White		early, mid	18 +	4
Flax, Blue	'Appar'	early, mid	10 +	3
Milkvetch, Cicer	'Lutana', 'Monarch'	late	15 +	7
Sainfoin		early, mid	14 +	34
Sweetclover, Yellow or White		early, mid	9 +	4
Trefoil, Birdsfoot		late	18 +	3

NATIVE (INTRODUCED) SHRUBS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Flowering</u>	<u>PPT</u>	<u>PLS Lbs/Ac</u>
Bitterbrush	plants only	early	10 +	N/A
Buckwheat species	plants only	mid, late	14 +	N/A
Buffaloberry, Silver	plants only	early, mid	16 +	N/A
Chokecherry	plants only	early	14 +	N/A
Cinquefoil, Shrubby	plants only	early, mid	18+	N/A
Current, Golden	plants only	early	12 +	N/A
Dogwood	cuttings or plants	early	16 +	N/A
Elderberry	plants only	mid	18 +	N/A
Hawthorn, Black	plants only	early, mid	12 +	N/A
Mockorange or Syringa	plants only	mid	18+	N/A
Peashrub, Siberian (introduced)	plants only	early	14 +	N/A
Plum, American	plants only	early	14 +	N/A
Rabbitbrush, Green		late	10 +	0.5
Rabbitbrush, Rubber		late	10 +	0.5
Rose, Woods		early, mid	12 +	1
Serviceberry	plants only	early	14 +	N/A
Snowberry	plants only	mid	14 +	N/A
Sumac, Skunkbush	plants only	early	14 +	N/A
Willow species	cuttings	early	18+	N/A

NATIVE SHRUBS - NON-POLLINATORS – Important for sage grouse habitat

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Flowering</u>	<u>PPT</u>	<u>PLS Lbs/Ac</u>
Sagebrush, Basin Big			10+	0.5
Sagebrush, Mountain Big			14 +	0.5
Sagebrush, Wyoming Big			9 +	0.5
Saltbush, Fourwing	Snake River Plains, 'Wytana'		8 +	2
Winterfat	Northern Cold Desert, Open Range		7 +	2