

# TECHNICAL NOTE

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USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Boise, Idaho

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Biology Technical Note No. 1

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## Pollinators

The attachment, *Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees*, is a USDA Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership publication. This publication provides information on native bee families, nesting and foraging needs, and conservation.

In addition, the following web sites can be used as a quick reference to available NRCS technical material related to pollinators and their habitat.

**NRCS Insects and Pollinators web page** – Type “pollinators” into the search box on the national NRCS home page: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/home>

### **National Biology Technical Notes on Native Pollinators:**

To locate the National Biology Technical Notes, go to the national edirectives website: <http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov>. On the menu bar to the left under "Browse by Directive", click on the link 'Technical Notes', then again on 'Title 190 - Ecological Sciences'. Click on Biology for the technical notes on pollinators, Nos. 38, 50, and 78.

**USDA- National Agroforestry Center** – Several Agroforestry Notes address native bees: <http://www.unl.edu/nac/agroforestrynotes.htm>

### **General Guidelines for Incorporating Pollinator Conservation in the Planning Process**

1. Identify and protect pollinator forage and nest sites already in place.
2. Ensure that flowers are blooming throughout as much of the growing season as possible.
3. Identify the best sites to enhance existing or create new nectar and pollen sources, nest sites, and provide refuge from pesticides (e.g., riparian forest buffers, shelterbelts, windbreaks, hedgerows, filter strips, conservation cover and tree and shrub establishment).
4. Select the best plants available to provide nectar and pollen sources. Refer to Idaho Plant Materials Technical Notes 2A and 2B.
5. Where pesticides are used, develop a pest management plan to reduce impacts to pollinators, using spot treatments and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concepts.
6. Develop the conservation plan with the landowner to enhance pollinator habitat.