



Guidelines for seed mixtures benefitting monarchs and beneficial insects

- Seeding density of 35 – 40 seeds/ft² minimum.
- A minimum of three forbs will be included from each of early, mid and late bloom periods.
- Asclepias species comprise a minimum 1% of the total seed mix for non-monarch centric plantings and 1.5% of the mix for monarch specific plantings.
- *At least 60% of the flowering forbs/legumes must be from the NRCS Midwest Monarch Nectar Plant List.*
 - These guidelines allow the flexibility to achieve Monarch benefits from non-monarch centric plantings such as prairie restoration, wildlife habitat etc.
- Refer to [MN Agronomy Technical Note #31](#) – Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment Guidelines for site prep, seed and seeding specifications.
- Refer to the [CREP seeding calculators](#) as a tool in developing seed mixtures.

➤ **CP-23a Wetland Restoration – Non-floodplain adjacent buffer**

CP-23a herbaceous buffer seeding will be in accordance with Conservation Practice Standard 643 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities: Tallgrass Prairie. Supplemental CREP specifications are as follows:

- A minimum 15 species (min 5 grasses and 5 forbs).
- Mixture will comprise a minimum 35-40 seeds/ft.
- Grass:Forb ratio 60:40.
- 60% of forbs in the seed mixture will be from the *NRCS Midwest Monarch Nectar Plant List* (highlighted in blue in the 643 CREP seed calculator).
- A minimum 3 forbs from each bloom period (early, mid and late).
- Milkweed species will comprise at least 1% of the total seed mixture based on seeds/ ft². Common milkweed will comprise at least 50% of the milkweed species.

➤ **CP-2 Native Grasses and Forbs (Wellhead Protection Areas)**

CP-2 seeding will be in accordance with Conservation Practice Standard 327 – Conservation Cover. In addition to the native grass/forb seeding, CREP encourages the establishment of “*Monarch Food Plots*” within the offered acres. CREP “*Monarch Food Plot*” specifications are as follows:

- “*Monarch Food Plots*” shall not exceed 10% of the offered CP-2 acres.
- Locate the “*Monarch Food Plot*” at least 60’ from adjacent cropland.
- A minimum 9 species with a minimum 3 forbs from each bloom period (early, mid and late).
- Mixture will comprise a minimum 35-40 seeds/ft.
- Grass:Forb ratio 20-25:75-80.
- Milkweed species will comprise at least 1.5% of the total seed mixture based on seeds/ ft². Common milkweed will comprise at least 50% of the milkweed species.