

Conservation Cover for Pollinators 327 NH

Purpose: This practice is used to plant native flowering plants from seed in areas currently in sod or on annually tilled cropland.

Site preparation involves repeated herbicide, tillage, nurse crops and mowing to reduce competition from grasses and other herbaceous plants.

Also consider frost seeding clovers (red mammoth and New Zealand into pasture, and haylands) as part of Forage and Biomass Planting 512

Option 1: Site Preparation with Herbicide

Project activities:	Completion date:
Year 1	
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	June
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	August
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	September
SEED- Lightly rake debris from site and plant seed via broadcast and roller or drill seeding, ideally before first snowfall.	November
Year 2	
Manage weeds by mowing three times (spring, summer, and fall). Several pollinator flowers will not bloom first year.	Spring, Summer, Fall
Apply grass selective herbicide (as needed)	June
Year 3	
Conduct regular weed control (monthly basis) via spot-spraying, or use of grass-selective herbicide to ensure annual weeds do not set seed and that perennial weeds are removed from site.	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mow pollinator plot each year after first hard frost.	Oct/Nov

Option 2: Organic Site Preparation

Project activities:	Completion date:
Year 1	
Plow down sod and Plant 75lbs/A Buckwheat, 5lbs/A Red Clover (Mammoth), 1lbs/A New Zealand White Clover, along with desired pollinator mix. Mix seed and bulk with play sand for small areas. Broadcast 75lbs of Urea and lightly disk in. Mow after first hard frost.	Spring or early summer
Year 2 and beyond.	
Be patient, several pollinator seeds take a few years to begin to flower, continue to mow after the first hard frost each year.	Spring

Seed Mixes for Pollinator Conservation Cover

Conservation Cover-Pollinator Low Management
Frost seeding or direct seeding of red mammoth and New Zealand clovers, alfalfa, and other low cost crops to improve health of managed honey bees and increase numbers of native bumble bees in the landscape. Typical size 3-5 acres+
Conservation Cover-Pollinator Intensive Management
Frost seeding or late summer seeding of native perennial flowering plants with especially high quality pollen and nectar. Increased cost is due to expensive seed and additional site preparation and weed control the first year after seeding. Typical size ½ acre.

Seed Mixes (costs based on 2009 prices)

1. Dry Mix- Intensive Management

Dry Site Mix	Species	Quantity lb	Cost per lb	Est. Cost
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	1.5	\$ 32.00	\$ 48.00
Lavender hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	1	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	0.5	\$ 196.00	\$ 98.00
Common Milk Weed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	0.25	\$ 80.00	\$ 20.00
Spotted Bee Balm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	1.6	\$ 160.00	\$ 256.00
Marsh Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	1.25	\$ 128.00	\$ 160.00
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	0.3	\$ 200.00	\$ 60.00
Smooth Penstemon	<i>Penstemon subglaber</i>	1.2	\$ 80.00	\$ 96.00
wild blue indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	0.5	\$ 180.00	\$ 90.00
showey goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	1.5	\$ 160.00	\$ 240.00
yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	1	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
partridge pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	0.75	\$ 14.00	\$ 10.50
perrineal blue flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>	1.5	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
hoary verbena	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	0.5	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00
Giant Sunflower*	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	0.25	\$ 40.00	\$ 10.00
	Totals	14		\$ 1,243.50

* plant in separate area if desired in planting

2. Wet Mix- Intensive Management

Species WET MIX	Species	Cost Per Pound	Quantity lb	Est. COST
Joe Pyeweed	<i>Eupatoriadelphus dubius</i>	\$ 160.00	1.5	\$240.00
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	\$ 240.00	0.5	\$120.00
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	\$ 160.00	1	\$160.00
Early Goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	\$ 200.00	0.5	\$100.00
St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	\$120.00	1.5	\$180.00
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	\$ 80.00	1	\$80.00
Meadow sweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	\$ 200.00	0.3	\$60.00
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	\$ 120.00	1	\$120.00
New England aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	\$ 200.00	1.2	\$ 240.00
Cutleaf	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	\$ 220.00	0.6	\$132.00
Blue vervain	<i>verbena hastata</i>	\$ 84.00	1.5	\$126.00
	Totals		10.6	\$1,558.00

3. Upland Standard Management

Dry Site Mix-Standard Management	Species	% of Mix	Cost (lb)	Quantity (lb)	Est. Cost of each in mix
Red Clover (Red Mammoth)	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	16%	\$ 2.75	2	\$5.50
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	16%	\$ 2.95	2	\$5.90
White Clover (New Zealand)	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	16%	\$ 3.60	2	\$7.20
Purple vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	8%	\$ 2.25	1	\$2.25
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	8%	\$ 32.00	1	\$32.00
Yellow sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	8%	\$ 1.50	1	\$1.50
Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	4%	\$ 80.00	0.5	\$40.00
Big Leaf Lupine	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	16%	\$ 24.00	2	\$48.00
Perennial Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	8%	\$ 32.00	1	\$32.00
	Totals	100%		12.5	\$174.35