

From

Pima Natural Resource Conservation District

FEBRUARY 2014

Tucson Plant Materials Center Pollinator Seeding Mix Trials

In December of 2012, Tucson Plant Materials Center (PMC) personnel installed a 0.2 acre pollinator seeding trial in collaboration with [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#). As discussed in the Xerces Society Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators, in 2003 the estimated economic value of insect pollinated crops in the United States was between \$18 and \$27 billion while approximately 15% of that value comes from native bees. However, many agricultural areas today lack sufficient habitat to support native pollinators.

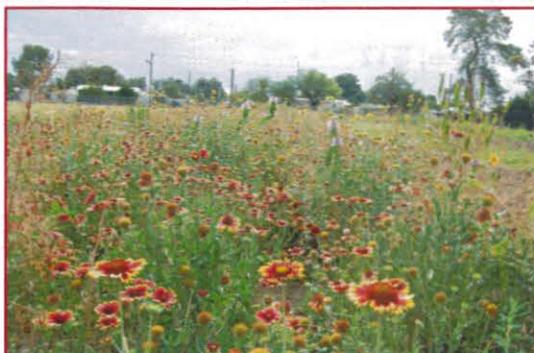


The purpose of the multi-year trial is to test seed mixes and management methods to determine what commonly available species attractive to pollinators will establish and persist in our service area. Species were chosen based on their commercial availability and applicability to the Tucson PMC service area. Additionally, the selected species have staggered blooming dates in order to provide year round pollinator habitat. The species seeded were Common Yarrow, Rocky Mountain Bee Plant, White Prairie Cover, California Poppy, Blanket Flower, Lewis' Flax, Wild Bergamot, Firecracker Penstemon, Palmer's Penstemon, Upright Coneflower and Lacy Phacelia.

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Seeding Trial in July 2013



Seeding Trial in April 2013

