



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY E512I (with Montana Supplement)

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect and/or Monarch habitat

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species that can provide nectar for Monarch butterflies and/or pollinators and forage and other habitat values for wildlife and livestock, particularly at times when targeted nectar, forage supply and quality, cover, and shelter are not available in other pastures. Species must be planted into existing perennial stands.

Criteria

- Select native, perennial plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, and will meet the nectar needs of specified, pollinating insects (and/or Monarch butterflies) at times when they will be present and foraging. These plants need to also provide forage or other habitat values for wildlife and livestock.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Prior to planting, graze or mow existing stands as needed to improve seedling competitiveness.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment. Minimize soil disturbances during planting operations.



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- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- **If establishing monarch habitat is the goal**, plants will be selected that help meet nectar requirements for Monarch butterflies during times that the Monarch will be present. Plant selection will help to increase scores on the state's approved NRCS Monarch butterfly habitat evaluation.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, select a perennial forage species or grassland mixture for establishment. If livestock are included in the system, forage species selected will meet the desired level of nutrition for the kind and class of the livestock to be fed. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Forage category (grass, legume, forb)

- ☐ Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting date	
Planting method	
Seeding rate	

If livestock are included in the system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.



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- ☐ If livestock are included in the grazing system, during implementation in areas where animals congregate, establish persistent species that can tolerate close grazing and trampling.
- ☐ During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation, and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.
- ☐ After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

Target Pollinator Species: _____

WHEG score before implementation: _____

WHEG score after implementation: _____

Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.

As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:

- Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512).
- Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- If livestock are included in the system, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.

During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.



- ☐ After implementation, verify the planned perennial grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____

Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date