

Pollinator Habitat

Conservation Cover – Job Sheet

PA327



Definition

Pollinator habitats are areas of permanent vegetation located in an agricultural landscape: field edges, field middles, odd corners, or virtually any location that is suited for pollinator habitat. Vegetation consists of acceptable herbaceous and/or woody plants.

Resource management system

Pollinator habitat is normally established as part of a conservation management system that addresses the soil, water, air, plant, and animal needs, including wildlife, and the owner's objectives.

Wildlife

Plantings for pollinator habitat can enhance wildlife objectives. Benefits depend on the plant species used and management practiced. Use plant species that can provide food and cover for pollinators during the spring, summer and fall. A minimum of 0.5 acre of contiguous pollinator habitat is required to provide pollinators with enough space to find food, nesting sites, and to provide some safety from human-related impacts like spraying, tilling, and mowing.

Purpose

Pollinator habitat will provide wildlife food and cover, reduce soil erosion from water, and protect soil and water quality. Specifically, pollinator habitat will provide nectar and pollen sources for pollinators, and offer low-disturbance areas for nesting and egg-laying.

Operation and maintenance

Maintain original layout of pollinator habitat. Actively manage habitat to avoid establishment of noxious or invasive plants. Mow, burn, reseed, or fertilize as necessary to maintain plant density and vigorous growth. Inspect pollinator habitat after storms; re-grade and reseed disturbed areas. Do not mow or burn during the nesting season (normally May through July) to protect ground-nesting wildlife. In place of mowing, consider other vegetation management options, such as "wickbar" herbicide applicators or prescribed burning. After plants are successfully established (typically two years after planting), no more than 30% of a pollinator planting may be mowed in any one year. Avoid drifting pesticides and herbicides from nearby farm operations onto pollinator habitats, as these are harmful to pollinators.

Specifications

Site-specific recommendations are listed following this section. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, the Conservation Cover practice standard (327), and current information on pollinator biology.

Dry Site' Seed Mix for PA Pollinator Habitats

to be used for: upland areas, dry sites, or other well-drained sites. (Well drained and Moderately well drained soils)

	% in mix	Bloom Color and Period		
		early	mid	late
Alsike clover* (<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>)	2.0			
Crimson clover* (<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>)	2.0	Red		
Blue flax* (<i>Linum perenne</i>)	5.0	Blue		
Wild hairy beardtongue (<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>)	8.0 or more	Pink		
Ohio spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>)	5.0 or more	Dark Blue		
Virginia spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>)	5.0 or more	Dark Blue		
Yellow sweet clover* (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)	2.0		Yellow	
Blue false indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>)	8.0 or more		Dark Blue	
Partridge pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)	7.0 or more		Yellow	
Wild bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)	6.0 or more		Pink	
Purple coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	4.0 or more		Pink	
Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	8.0 or more		Orange	
Tall white beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>)	8.0 or more			
Milkweed, common (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>)	6.0 or more		Pink	
Purple giant hyssop* (<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>)	8.0			Purple
Gray goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)	7.0 or more			Yellow
Mistflower (<i>Conoclinium coelostinium</i>)	6.0 or more			Purple
Virginia mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)	4.0 or more			
Blazing star / Gayfeather (<i>Liatris spicata</i>)	8.0 or more			Pink
New England aster (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>)	7.0 or more			p c
Giant sunflower (<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>)	3.0 or more			Yellow

*non-native

p = petal, c = center

Due to yearly changes in seed availability, some seeds may not always be available. As a result, NRCS provides the following guidelines, which apply to every seed mix used:

1. **At least three plants from each grouping (early, mid-, or late season blooming) will be included in the mix.**
2. **As many different plants as possible from each group will be included in the mix.** Increasing the diversity of plants will increase the variety and number of pollinators that use the planted area.
3. **The % of each plant in the mix may vary based on the total number of plants used.** However, the % of seed used **will not** drop below the amount given in the tables above. For non-native species marked with an *, only the % of seed listed above should be used--no more or no less. For example, any clover used should only be 2% of the final mix, purple giant hyssop should only be 8% of the mix, and so on.
4. **Seed will be planted at a minimum rate of 4 pounds per acre;** higher rates (up to 8 pounds per acre) may be used if desired.

'Wet Site' Seed Mix for PA NRCS Pollinator Projects

to be used for: flooded riparian borders, wet sites, poorly drained sites. (Somewhat poorly drained and Poorly drained soils)

	% of mix	Bloom Color and Period		
		early	mid	late
Alsike clover* (<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>)	2.0			
Crimson clover* (<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>)	2.0	Red		
Ohio spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>)	5.0 or more	Dark Blue		
Virginia spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>)	5.0 or more	Dark Blue		
Bee balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	4.0 or more		Red	
Monkey flower (<i>Mimulus ringens</i>)	6.0 or more		Cyan	
Yellow sweet clover* (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)	2.0		Yellow	
Swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)	5.0 or more		Pink	
New York aster (<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>)	11.0 or more		p c	
Great blue lobelia (<i>Lobelia syphilitica</i>)	5.0 or more			Blue
Common boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)	10.0 or more			White
Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	4.0 or more			Red
Blue vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)	11.0 or more			Dark Blue
Wingstem / yellow ironweed (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>)	11.0 or more			Yellow
Joe-pye weed (<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>)	10.0 or more			Pink
Mistflower (<i>Conoclinium coelostinium</i>)	5.0 or more			Purple

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Landowner _____ Field number(s) _____

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve water quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation	<input type="checkbox"/> List additional benefits

RECOMMENDED SPECIES, SEEDING OR PLANTING RATES, AND SEEDING OR PLANTING DATES

Layout	Field #:	Field #:	Field #:
Area (acres)			

Herbaceous Plant Materials Information (minimum of three from each Group – Early, Mid & Late)

Species	% of mix
Early	
1	
2	
3	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
Mid	
1	
2	
3	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
Late	
1	
2	
3	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	

POUNDS of seed mix per acre (4 to 8 lbs./ac.) ____; Fld # ____ Total lbs. ____; Fld # ____ Total lbs. ____; Fld. # ____ Total lbs. ____

Seeding Date _____ TOTAL POUNDS of seed mix (all fields) _____

See *Pollinator Habitat Seed Mixes* on previous pages for species lists and other related information.

Woody Plant Materials Information (Optional)				
Tree or Shrub species/cultivars:	Plants/acre	Kind of stock ¹	Planting dates	Avg. Spacing ²
American basswood				
Chokecherry				
Crab apple				
Redbud				
Serviceberry				
Highbush blueberry				
TOTAL				

¹ BAreroot, COntainer, CUtting, SSeed; include size, stem dia., height, and age as applicable.

² Spacing between plants that matches plants/acre.

