Conservation Cover (Wildflowers for Pollinators)

S. C. Practice Job Sheet 327

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Date: _____

DEFINITION

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover especially beneficial for pollinators using forb species native to the Southeastern United States and South Carolina.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied to enhance wildlife habitat for pollinators by providing:

- Nectar and pollen throughout the growing season
- Host sites for butterfly and moth species
- Cover
- Increased plant species diversity

WHERE USED

This practice applies on all lands needing permanent vegetative cover for the benefit of wildlife. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to typical critical-area plantings.

OPERATIONS

Pre-planting:

Scout the fields that are planned to have conservation cover applied at least one year prior to the planned seeding date. Identify all of the vegetation that will compete with the native herbaceous species or desired planted native species. It is critical to the success of the seeding that ALL of the competition from other plants be removed prior to seeding.

Follow the recommendation of the Clemson Weed Guide or Clemson Extension for the correct herbicide treatment prior to seeding. It can often be necessary to apply a chemical treatment in the fall before seeding and also a second treatment in the spring just before seeding. Delay seeding for the recommended time necessary for selected herbicide.

Seeding:

A stand with a minimum of 9 wildflower species should be established, including at least three flowering species from each of the three bloom periods (spring, summer, and fall). The stand should include a minimum of one legume species and one native bunchgrass for a total of 10 or more species. A species list can be found in the Pollinator Technical Guide (327c) and as a table in the EFOTG in practice 327.

Drill grass, forb, and legume seed 1/4 inches deep or broadcast uniformly over area.

The average planting rate for pre-mixed seeds is about 12 lbs. per acre (or 8-22 lbs. per acre). Each species can make up 0.25 % to 20% of the mix depending on seed size and seeds per lb. (*no single species should exceed 20% of the mix).* The ultimate goal for pollinator benefit is 40-60 pure live seed (PLS) per square foot.

Woody Plants for Pollinators: Specific flowering native tree and shrub species that are

specifically beneficial to pollinators can be used as part of the 9 forb s in the planting plan.

MAINTENANCE:
Where wildlife habitat is the primary purpose, maintenance activities should not disturb cover during the primary nesting season from April 1 September 1, annually. Exceptions should be considered for periodic burning, mowing, or spot herbicide treatment when necessary to maintain the health of the desired plant community.

Noxious and invasive species should be controlled to prevent proliferation and competing with the desired plant community.

Inspect after major storms, remove trapped sediment, repair eroding areas and reseed any areas where cover has been destroyed during the next appropriate seeding period.

Common Name (List of Native Grasses)
Big Bluestem
Bushy Bluestem
Splitbeard Bluestem
Wiregrass (can plant plugs)
River Oats/Indian Wood Oats
Toochache Grass
Canada Wild Rye
Bottlebrush Wild Rye
Riverbank Wild Rye
Virginia Wild Rye
Fowl Manna Grass
Muhly Grass
Beaked or Fall Panicum
Deer Tongue Rosette Grass
Switchgrass (aggressive, no more than 1 lb. PLS/ac)
Little Bluestem
Indian grass (better with spring planting)
Lopsided Indian Grass
Pineywoods Dropseed
Purple Top
Eastern Gama Grass (plant 1 in. deep, can use a corn planter)

Common Name (List of Native Wildflowers)	Season
Indian Blanket	spr-fall
Ox Eye Sunflower	spr-fall
White Wild Indigo (legume)	spring
Spiked Wild Indigo (legume)	spring
Blue Wild Indigo (legume)	spring
Catbells (legume)	spring
Blue Flag Iris	spring
Wild Blue Lupine (legume)	spring
Pickerelweed	spring
Greyheaded Coneflower	spring
Narrowleaved Blue-eyed Grass	spring
Wreath Goldenrod	spring
Virginia Spiderwort	spring
Largeflower Tickseed	spr-sum
Lance Leaved Coreopsis	spr-sum
Showy Primrose	spr-sum
Appalachian Beard Tongue	spr-sum
Annual Phlox	spr-sum
Black-Eyed Susan	spr-sum
Goat's Rue (legume)	spr-sum
Ohio Spiderwort/Bluejacket	spr-sum
Zigzag Spiderwort	spr-sum
Golden Alexanders	spr-sum
Common Milkweed	summer
Butterfly Milkweed	summer
Horsefly Weed (legume)	summer
Panicle-leaf Trefoil (legume)	summer
Rattlesnake Master	summer
Woodland Sunflower	summer
Crimson-eyed Rose Mallow	summer
Grass-leaf Blazing Star	summer
Scaly Blazing Star	summer
Lemon Mint	summer
Wild Bergamot	summer
Spotted Bee Balm	summer
Wild Quinine	summer
Clustered Mountain Mint	summer
Maryland Senna (legume)	summer
Cup Plant	summer
Pinebarren Goldenrod	summer
Gray Goldenrod	summer
Smooth Blue Aster	sum-fall
New England Aster	sum-fall
Eastern Showy Aster	sum-fall
Showy Tickseed Sunflower/Bur-marigold	sum-fall
Partridge Pea (legume)	sum-fall
Tall Coreopsis	sum-fall
Blue Mistflower	sum-fall
Joe Pye Weed	sum-fall
Swamp/Narrow-Leaf Sunflower	sum-fall
Thin-Leaf Sunflower	sum-fall
Marsh Blazing Star	sum-fall
Cardinal Flower	sum-fall
Downy Lobelia	sum-fall
Evening Primrose	sum-fall
Orange Coneflower	sum-fall
Starry Rosinweed	sum-fall
Rigid Goldenrod	sum-fall
Wrinkle-Leaved Goldenrod	sum-fall
Showy Goldenrod	sum-fall
Yellow Wingstem	sum-fall
Giant Ironweed	sum-fall
New York Ironweed	sum-fall
Eastern Swamp Milkweed	fall
New York Aster	fall
Purple Stemmed Aster	fall
Boneset	fall
Sneezeweed	fall
Elegant Blazing Star	fall
Rough-Leaved Goldenrod	fall

Woody Plants for Pollinators

Spring Bloom	Summer Bloom
wild plum	false indigobush/leadplant
choke cherry	beauty berry
raspberry, blackberry	new jersey tea
blueberries	buttonbush
red buckeye	sweet pepperbush
redbud	Viburnums
dogwoods	smooth sumac
southern crabapple	winged sumac
black willow	sourwood
maple (red, silver, sugar)	linden, basswood
serviceberry	trumpet creeper
persimmon	coral honeysuckle
tulip poplar	Virginia creeper
swamp tupelo	
black gum/tupelo	
black locust	cross vine (Spring)

Conservation Cover 327 – Guidance

Pollinator Habitat Seeding Plan

Name _____ **Date** _____
Prepared by _____ **Tract No.** _____
Field No. _____
Type of Seeding: _____ **Acres** _____ **Contract #** _____

Seeding Mix Summary

	Growth Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Seeds/Ft^2	PLS Lbs / Acre	Total PLS lb
Grasses	Bunchgrass (at least 1)					
			SUBTOTAL GRAMINOIDS			

	Growth Form/Flowering Period	Scientific Name	Common Name	Seeds/Ft^2	PLS Lbs / Acre	Total PLS lb
Minimum of 9 Flowers	Spring Blooming (at least 3)					
	Summer Blooming (at least 3)					
	Fall Blooming (at least 3)					
	Legume (can be in addition or included above)					
Other Forb, Subshrub, Shrub, or Vine Species						
			SUBTOTAL FORBS			
			TOTAL			

Additional Seeding Criteria: **Do not apply fertilizer.**

Spring seeding dates: March 15 - June 1. Dormant Seeding dates: November 15 - freeze up. Frost Seeding dates: February 1 - March 15, Fall Seeding dates Sept. 1- Oct 20,

Joh Sheet Certification

Prepared by: _____
(Title) (Date)

Approved by: _____
(Title) (Date)

Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications? **YES** **NO** **Certified by** _____
(NRCS Representative) (Date)

If necessary (for sloped areas > 6% with high erosion potential), mulch newly seeded area with 1,000 lbs per acre of mulch material. Straw mulch shall consist of wheat, barley, oat or rye grain straw, hay, or grass cut from native grasses. Mulch must not contain noxious or invasive weeds.

A small grain crop can be planted as a companion crop at the rate of 5 pounds per acre (use wheat, barley, oats, rye grain, or browntop millet) sloped areas > 6% with high erosion potential). Conservation Cover will be planned and applied in a manner consistent with the habitat.

☐ WinPST Soil Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report are attached and were discussed with the landowner in formulating the plan of herbicide application.