



Landowner _____

Definition

Creating, restoring, maintaining or enhancing foraging areas for honey bees.



This may vary from conventional planting to no till. A firm weed-free seedbed is desirable to ensure accurate seed placement and good seed-soil contact at the proper depth to facilitate germination and stand success.

Seeding Method

If seeding in the fall or in the spring, the mixture may be drilled; or broadcast and incorporated with light, shallow tillage to cover the seed.

Rate and Date of Seeding

To produce maximum growth, spring seeded cover crops can be seeded as early as possible depending on the primary crop to be planted. See the specification sheet for seeding rates and dates.

Purpose

To provide floral forage habitats to benefit hive nutritional health.

Where used

On all landscapes that are suitable for the establishment and management of cover for pollinators, including honey bees. Locate practice within one mile of existing hives or apiaries.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet.

1. Encourage blocks of herbaceous cover as opposed to narrow linear plantings.
2. Minimum size shall be 0.5 ac.
3. Minimum width shall be 20'. A pesticide application setback of 30' is required from the edge of the planting into cropland.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Prevent unplanned disturbance of cover throughout the growing season. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock.
2. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by:
 - (a) Treating with chemicals per label directions, or
 - (b) Spot mow before seed heads form. When possible delay use of control measures until after October 1st to protect late flowering plants.
3. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover.
4. Use all chemicals according to label instructions. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for herbicide selection and use.

Establishment Considerations

Seedbed Preparation

Prepare a suitable seedbed adequate for the species to be planted and method of planting.

Annual Forbs and Legumes - Specifications Sheet

Landowner _____ Tract Number(s) _____ Field Number(s) _____

Total Acres to be Seeded _____ Prepared By _____

Pure Live Seed Needs			Bulk Seed Needed				
(1) Species	(2) Strain or Variety	(3) PLS lbs/ac * Drill Rate	(6) Purity	(7) Germination	(8) Bulk lbs/ac needed (3)/(6x7)	(9) Acres to be seeded	(10) Total Bulk lbs needed (8)x(9)
Yellow Mustard	<i>Sinapis alba</i> or <i>Brassica juncea</i>	2.0					
Buckwheat <u>1/</u>		16.0					
Cowpeas		18.0					
Annual Sunflower		0.5					
Optional <u>additional</u> species							
Dwarf Essex Rapeseed		1.0					
Berseem Clover		3.5					
Red Clover		4.0					

NOTE: Legume seed shall be inoculated in accordance with the directions on the inoculant container. Use the correct inoculant for each legume.

1/ Plantings containing buckwheat may not be seeded within 30 feet of an existing commodity wheat field, or in a field with a planned rotation to a commodity wheat within two years.

* %PLS = %Germination x %Purity. To obtain pounds of bulk seed needed per acre, use the following: (PLS lbs/ac) divided by (Germination x Purity). **Broadcast seeding at 1.5 times the drill rate.**

Seeding Dates: South of Interstate 94 = 5/1 – 5/15 North of Interstate 94 = 5/15 – 6/1

Seedbed Preparation Method: _____

Seeding Method: _____

Total Acres _____ X Estimated Cost per Acre _____ = Project Cost Estimate: _____

Practice Specifications Approval and Completion Certification

LANDOWNER/OPERATOR ACKNOWLEDGES:

- a. They have received a copy of the specifications and understand the contents including the scope and location of the practice.
- b. They have obtained all necessary permits and/or rights in advance of practice application, and will comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- c. No changes will be made in the installation of the job without prior concurrence of the NRCS.
- d. Maintenance of the installed work is necessary for proper performance during the life of the practice. The practice life is _____.

I have reviewed all specifications and agree to install as specified:

Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:
Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:

NRCS Review Only

DESIGN INSTALLATION AND LAYOUT APPROVAL:

Designed By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):
Approved By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):

RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION:

Treated Acres:	Date Completed by Client:	Date Certified:

Certification Statement:

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

NRCS Signature:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):
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