Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)
Habitat areas must be located within each 40 acre block unless sites with unique configurations are approved by the NRCS State Wildlife Biologist. Habitat areas for adjoining 40 acre blocks may be located side-by-side.

Establishment of '80% soil cover' can be measured as canopy cover during the peak of the growing season.

Additional Criteria for Nebraska Pollinators
This enhancement requires the use of the flowering plant species noted below. Substitute species may be approved by NRCS provided they are native and adapted to site conditions. New seedings must incorporate the required nine or more flowering species at a minimum of 75% of the seeding rate or more (based on seeds per square foot). Total seeding rates (forbs/legumes plus any allowed native grasses listed below) should be a minimum of 15 PLS/ft^2 and should not exceed 30 PLS/ft^2 unless required on small areas to control soil erosion resulting from concentrated flow.

Existing habitat areas must contain the required nine or more flowering species at a minimum of 75% or more by canopy cover. Generally, it will be required to eliminate existing vegetation within the habitat areas using a herbicide application followed by interseeding of the necessary flowering plant species. Multiple treatments (herbicide, tillage, etc.) will be needed to remove aggressive, sod-forming grasses such as smooth brome. The minimum seeding rate of 10 PLS/ft^2 should be used for interseeded forbs.

Vegetation will not be disturbed between April 15 and October 15 unless approved by NRCS as part of a management plan intended to maintain and enhance plant diversity and vigor.

And/Or Additional Criteria for Nebraska Beneficial Insects
Identify pest species and associated beneficial insects targeted for control. Match plant selection(s) to attract identified beneficial insects (refer to ATTRA, "Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas," or University of Nebraska information on beneficial insects).

Implementation of this enhancement requires the establishment of desired plant species identical to what is noted above for pollinator habitat in terms of species diversity, seeding rates, disturbance restrictions, etc.

Acceptable Native Grasses for Use in Pollinator Habitat Seedings (up to 25% total by PLS/Ft^2):	Acceptable Introduced Legumes/Forbs for Use in Pollinator Habitat Seedings:	Acceptable Shrub Seedling Species for Use in Pollinator Habitat Seedings/Plantings:
Little bluestem	Red clover	Buffaloberry, silver
Sideoats grama	White clover (Dutch or ladino)	Chokecherry, common
Big bluestem	Alsike clover	Currant, golden
Blue grama	Bird'sfoot trefoil	Dogwood, redosier
Hairy grama	Cicer milkvetch	Elderberry
Prairie Junegrass	Alfalfa (Veg. Zones I & II only)	Hazelnut, American
Sand lovegrass	Small burnet (Veg. Zone I only)	Plum, American
Rough dropseed		Rose, woods
Sand dropseed		Sandcherry, Western
Green needlegrass		Serviceberry, Saskatoon
		Snowberry, Western
Note: Where permanent vegetation is already present, other species of native grasses may persist following suppression provided that the total grass does not exceed 25% of the total canopy cover.		Sumac, skunkbush
	Note: Only one species from this list can be used and cannot exceed 10% of total mix by PLS/Ft^2. All species considered Spring Bloom.	Note: A minimum of one 30' x 50' shrub thicket per contiguous pollinator habitat "patch" is required to count species. All species considered Spring Bloom.

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-PLT15 2015 Ranking Period 1

Commonly Used Native Wildflower Species for Use in Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitat Seedings Listed by Bloom Period		
Spring/Early (April 15-June 15)	Summer/Middle (June 15-August 15)	Fall/Late (August 15-October15)
Alumroot	Anemone, Canada	Aster, aromatic
Blanketflower *	Blackeyed Susan *	Aster, azure (sky blue)
False indigo, white	Black Sampson (narrowleaf coneflower)	Aster, New England
False indigo, cream (plains)	Coneflower, grayhead *	Aster, smooth blue
Gaura, scarlet	Coneflower, pale purple	Aster, upland white (heath) *
Golden Alexander	Coneflower, purple *	Beggar-ticks
New Jersey tea	Coneflower, upright prairie *	Boneset
Penstemon, shell-leaf (large)	Coreopsis, plains *	Boneset, tall
Penstemon, narrowleaf	Coreopsis, prairie	Cardinal flower (lobelia)
Penstemon, tall white (beardtongue)	Culver's root	Compass plant
Rose, Arkansas	False sunflower (oxeye sunflower) *	Coneflower, cutleaf (golden glow)
Rose, Carolina (prairie wild)	Flax, blue (subspecies "*lewisii*" only)	Cup-plant
Rose, woods (Western wild)	Gentian, prairie	False boneset
Sandcherry	Golden-aster, hairy	Gayfeather, dotted
Scarlet globemallow	Goldenrod, Canada *	Gayfeather, plains
Spiderwort, Ohio	Illinois bundleflower *	Gayfeather, rough
Sumac, skunkbush	Larkspur, white	Gayfeather, thickspike
Vetch, American	Leadplant	Gentian, downy
Yarrow, Western *	Milkweed, butterfly	Goldenrod, showy-wand
	Milkweed, common *	Goldenrod, stiff *
	Milkweed, showy	Jerusalem artichoke
	Milkweed, smooth	Joe Pye weed, spotted
	Milkweed, swamp	Lespedeza, roundhead
	Milkweed, whorled	Lobelia, great blue
	Milkvetch, Canada *	Obedience plant
	Mountain mint, Virginia	Pitcher sage
	Onion, nodding	Rattlesnake-master
	Phlox, prairie	Sagewort, cudweed (white sage) *
	Primrose, common evening	Sagewort, fringed (fringed sage)
	Primrose, four-point evening	Seedbox, bushy
	Primrose, Missouri	Sneezeweed
	Prairie cinquefoil	Sunflower, ashy
	Prairieclover, purple	Sunflower, Maximilian *
	Prairieclover, silky	Sunflower, sawtooth
	Prairieclover, white	Sunflower, stiff
	Rocky Mountain bee plant *	Tickseed sunflower (bidens)
	Rosinweed, entire-leaved	
	Sensitive brier	
	Showy Partridge-pea *	
	Tick-clover, Canada (showy)	
	Vervain, blue	
	Verbena, hoary (wooly) *	
	Virginia Mountain mint	
	Western ironweed *	
	Wild bergamot *	
	Wild senna	
Other:	Other:	Other:
Other native forbs may be used if supported by The Flora of Nebraska or similar document regarding range, bloom period, adaptation, etc.		
Note: Species noted with an * are more readily established and are recommended to each comprise a small (<10%) percentage of seeding mixtures in order that they do not suppress less aggressive species used within the mixture.		

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Additional State Documentation Requirements
Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning			To be completed by Producer during certification		
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Tract(s)	**Field(s)**	**Acres Planned**	**Acres Treated**	**Management Activity Implemented (Only 1/3 of habitat treated each year)**	**Date Completed**
EX. 101	*1-5*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*Conducted a prescribed burn on 1/3 of each habitat block to maintain diversity.*	*March 2015*

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-3 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 4-6 PRODUCER COMPLETES

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS for review.

1. Map with pollinator/beneficial insect habitat areas clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).
2. Completed NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
3. Documentation of completed management activity, as required – (COMPLETE TABLE ABOVE)

Certified by: _____ Date:_____