

Pollinator Friendly Habitat

Wisconsin Job Sheet CRP-130



Client Name _____ Tract _____

If you are receiving financial assistance for completing this planting, refer to your agreement for any additional requirements or restrictions.

Purpose

This job sheet focuses on requirements specific to Conservation Cover (327) introduced and native Pollinator Habitat and CRP CP42 Pollinator Habitat. (Select all that apply).

- Introduced Pollinator Herbaceous Planting (327)
- Native Pollinator Herbaceous Planting (327)
- CRP CP42 Pollinator Habitat

Introduction

Pollinators are an integral part of our environment and our agricultural systems; they are important in 35 percent of global crop production. Animal pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, bats and hummingbirds. Worldwide, there are an estimated 20,000 species of bees alone, with approximately 4,000 species native to the United States.

For establishment of introduced species refer to WI NRCS Job Sheet 134. For establishment of native species refer to WI NRCS Job Sheet 135. Some guidelines specific to the establishment of CRP CP42 Pollinator Habitat will be provided within this job sheet.

For additional recommendations concerning pollinator habitat, refer to Wisconsin NRCS Biology Technical Note 8, Pollinator Biology and Habitat, located in Section IV of the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide.

Introduced Pollinator Herbaceous Planting Criteria

At least 1 and a maximum of 2 bunch grasses seeded at a total maximum rate of 30 seeds per square foot, and a minimum of 2 legumes seeded at a minimum total rate of 40 seeds per square foot.

Refer to NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 6 for species recommendations specific to planting site and moisture regime.



CRP Requirements

CRP rules allow the cover to be managed throughout the year to control weeds or woody vegetation UNTIL the cover is determined to be established (typically within the first 3 years of the contract).

Once the cover is established, no disturbance is allowed during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract (May 15 through August 1).

Spot clipping or spot spraying may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

Mid-contract management practices are required for CRP CP42 cover. Refer to CRP Job Sheet 388: Burning and Interseeding, and/or CRP Job Sheet 389: Prescribed Burning for practice requirements.

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Native Pollinator Herbaceous Planting Criteria

At least 1 and a maximum total rate of 10 seeds per square foot, and a minimum of 9 forbs and/or legumes, 3 or more from each bloom period (early, mid, late) seeded at a minimum total rate of 30 seeds per square foot.

Refer to NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5 for species recommendations specific to planting site and moisture regime.

CRP CP42 Pollinator Habitat Criteria

Seeding composition must include a minimum of 9 species of pollinator-friendly legumes or wildflowers, including at least 3 species in bloom each season of spring (early), summer (middle), and fall (late).

Seeding composition must contain at least 1 and a maximum of 2 bunch grasses.

CRP pollinator habitat must be at least 0.5 acres in size and a minimum of 20 feet in width, amounting to a minimum of 1.0 acre per contract.

Introduced species and woody vegetation are not approved for CRP pollinator habitat. No harvesting or grazing on CP42 cover for the life of the contract.

Refer to NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5 for species recommendations specific to planting site and moisture regime.

Establishment of CP42 Pollinator Habitat in Existing Sod

In order to have a successful establishment, the existing sod, both introduced and native, must be terminated through the use of tillage and herbicide application.

Complete termination is also required if converting an existing CRP field to pollinator habitat. Failure to fully terminate the existing cover will result in a poor stand establishment and potential failure of the pollinator habitat.

Existing prairie stands contain tallgrass species which will out compete the CP42 required mix of predominately flowering forbs with 1, and no more than 2, short bunch grasses.

Operation and Maintenance of Conservation Cover 327

Weed control during establishment is critical to ensure survival of the new stand. Mowing, herbicide application, or grazing may be used alone or in combination to control weeds before they go to seed.

Graze or mow the existing stand at a height of 7 inches for native species and 4 to 6 inches for non-native species before weeds go to seed. If grazing the stand, be cautious of selective grazing where animals do not uniformly graze the stand. Be careful not to mow or graze when the soil is wet to avoid damage to seedlings.

If residue will be left on the field, do not allow the vegetation to grow too high prior to mowing; otherwise, excessive residue may accumulate and smother seedlings.

Additional treatment may be needed every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the growing season until the stand becomes established. If using herbicides, be sure to follow all label directions.

Conservation Reserve Program Requirements

CRP rules allow the cover to be managed throughout the year to control weeds or woody vegetation UNTIL the cover is determined to be established (typically within the first 3 years of the contract).

Once the cover is established, no disturbance is allowed during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract (May 15 through August 1).

Spot clipping or spot spraying may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

Mid-contract management practices are required for CRP CP42 cover. Refer to your contract and CRP Job Sheet 388: Burning and Interseeding, and/or CRP Job Sheet 389: Prescribed Burning for practice requirements.

