



The importance of planting your project in different seed mixtures

The BBHF uses two different pollinator seed mixes on each project. While a wide range of pollinator species use and benefit from each of the seed mixes, one mix is tailored to honey bees, and the other provides habitat for monarch butterflies. Each mix is established on 50% of the site. There are different planting and management considerations for the BBHF Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly seed mixes.



Honey Bee Seed Mix

Many of the species included in the Honey Bee seed mix do not germinate until the soil temperature has reached 60°F. Don't be surprised if the field initially appears to have a low diversity of flowering plants. In the first year, slow-establishing plants will still be at the seedling stage in early summer. By mid-to-late summer, these plants will be growing rapidly and many will begin to flower. In subsequent years, perennials and biennials will achieve a strong presence in the field. Expect the composition of flowering plants to evolve and change slightly each year.

Because of its seed mixture design, the honey bee seed mix is often established around the perimeter of a proposed project so it can also serve as a Green Firebreak. A Green Firebreak can help landowners conduct future management using prescribed burns on the monarch butterfly seed mix in a safe and effective manner. Learn more here (<https://youtu.be/cB4naEGVqNQ>).



Monarch Butterfly Seed Mix

Patience is necessary when growing a highly diverse mix of native wildflowers and milkweed species. A minimum of 40 different wildflower species are used in every Monarch Mix.

This seed mixture contains a combination of annual, biennial and perennial plants that will establish over time. Monitor the establishment of this plot using the 'Sleep, Creep and Leap' philosophy: in year 1, the planting appears to be asleep; in year 2, it starts to creep; and in year 3, it leaps as a successful project.

OPTIONS FOR SEEDING A BBHF POLLINATOR HABITAT PROJECT

1. Projects that are side by side.
2. Projects in separate locations.
3. Using the honey bee mix as a green firebreak around the monarch butterfly mix.

