

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS



FARMERS FOR
MONARCHS



Pollinator Habitat Establishment
and Management Guide

Pollinator Habitat on Agriculture Lands

Farmers and land managers understand site preparation for planting requires attention to detail. Planting pollinator habitat is no more difficult but it does require attention to different details if you have not done it before. Below are several high-level overview of the recommendations for planting for pollinators, courtesy of the Pollinator Habitat Establishment and Management Guide from the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund.

Define Objectives

The first recommendation is to define your objectives. Consider what conservation outcomes you're hoping for, identify the pollinators you wish to benefit, and determine how else the site will be used.

Choose Seed Mix

An ideal seed mix is cost-effective, has a high pollinator value, meets the land manager's objectives and fits the site requirements. Seed mixtures should be designed to remain attractive to pollinators throughout the entire growing season. A good rule of thumb is to design a seed mix with a minimum of 40 species of flowering plants.

Site Preparation

Know the site history, including crop, noxious weed, and herbicide use history. Make sure to also follow recommended wait times following herbicide use. The Pollinator Habitat Establishment and Management Guide also offers a site plan decision tree to guide land managers in site preparation.

Planting

There are two general pollinator seeding methods: broadcast-seeding and using a no-till seed drill. Weigh the pros and cons of each method as it relates to your land. Planting a monarch butterfly seed mix also requires a "Sleep, Creep and Leap" philosophy:

- Year One: the planting appears to be asleep
- Year Two: it starts to creep
- Year Three: it leaps as a successful project

