

Pollinator Habitat Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

1/4 ____ Sec ____ Twp ____ Rng ____ Email: _____

Location of Planting: _____ Sun Exposure: _____

Area of Planting (feet): _____

Planting Types

Please choose one of the types of plantings that are covered by this cost-share program.

_____ **Native Pocket Planting:** small native plant garden including flowers preferred by our state bee.

_____ **Pollinator Beneficial Trees and/or Shrubs:** Flowering trees and shrubs with quality nectar and pollen for bees in the spring.

_____ **Pollinator Meadow:** a relatively large expanse of native plants, reminiscent of a prairie remnant.

_____ **Community Orchard:** community garden made up of pollinator beneficial fruit trees, shrubs, fruits and flowers.

* The District can get the seed through Agassiz Seed, this is recommended, but not required. If you wish to buy the seed or plants, then we will need copies of receipts and will have an approved list of vendors.

This is a cost-share program. That means that Richland Soil Conservation District will cover up to \$250 per “small site”, which are 8 square feet—1,000 square feet. \$500 per “medium” site that is less than an acre. \$1,000 per “large” site, that is greater than an acre. Receipts and seed tags will be required for payment, along with pictures of the process and finished planting.

Cost share is available for site preparation, seed or tree costs at 60% of actual cost.

One payment at approved project completion.

***Any unique proposals will be considered by the Richland SCD Board on an individual basis.**

Example: Community Projects*



Pocket Plantings

Pocket Plantings are a great way to introduce biodiversity in your yard. Starting small makes the project more manageable and easier to care for as your garden establishes. As you gain experience, confidence, and (fingers crossed) a desire for more, it is always possible to expand the garden.

First, consider where you'll be planting

A successful garden isn't complicated, but it does require some planning. Ask yourself the following questions:

How much sunlight is there? Some plants grow spindly, leggy or not-at-all in too much shade. Others shrivel up in full sun. There is a suite of plants for just about every site.

What is the soil moisture of the site? Heavy clay soils will hold a lot more water than light, loamy sand; some plants will drown where others thrive. Pocket plantings can make excellent raingardens if located in a place to capture runoff from roofs, sidewalks or driveways.

Are these characteristics consistent throughout the site? Conditions may vary even within the site where you are planting.



Pollinator Beneficial Trees and/or Shrubs:

Did you know that windbreaks help honey bees forage when it's windy? They can't forage at wind speeds over 25 mph. NDSU Bee-utiful Landscapes: Building a Pollinator Garden is a great pdf that lists out what trees and shrubs are beneficial to pollinators.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/lawns-gardens-trees/bee-utiful-landscapes-building-a-pollinator-garden#section-18>

When selecting trees and shrubs for your landscape, don't forget that they can be great sources of nectar and pollen, particularly in spring. May-flowering fruit trees and shrubs, such as apples, chokecherries, plums, tart cherries, honeyberries and Juneberries, provide a very important food source when very little is blooming in perennial gardens .

Boulevard trees can be beneficial to bees, too. The wonderfully fragrant blossoms of linden (basswood) trees seem to draw every bee on the block when the trees bloom in late June into early July. Honey produced from linden trees is prized because of its golden brown color and its depth of flavor.

Other beneficial boulevard trees include honeylocust, Kentucky coffeetree and Ohio buckeye (Table 5). Common wind-pollinated trees, such as ash, are not very attractive to bees and do not produce nectar.



Pollinator Meadows

Most native wildflowers and flowering shrubs need full sunlight to thrive. Choose open sites that receive full sun throughout most of the day. Level ground is best, however gentle slopes are suitable as long as erosion is controlled during the establishment process. Consider using otherwise marginal land, such as septic fields, parking strips, or road-sides to establish your pollinator meadow. While trees can be problematic on these sites, herbaceous plants will not penetrate pipes, threaten overhead power lines, or create traffic hazards. As an additional benefit, the deep-rooted native plants used in habitat restoration can support other wildlife, improve water infiltration, withstand drought, filter runoff, and store carbon. Pollinator meadows can range in size from a backyard to an acre.



Community Orchard

Community gardens are spaces where people come together to grow a variety of produce from trees, shrubs, and other small fruits. These sites are often on city land and can be located on vacant or abandoned lots, putting the space to better use and beautifying the landscape. Community gardens can help reduce negative environmental impacts by promoting sustainable agriculture. They also reduce food transportation costs and reduce water runoff. Humans, plants, and animals can all benefit from urban agriculture. This is because it creates habitats and improves the ecology of the area.

