

# CP-42 Pollinator Habitat

More than 35 percent of crop production in the U.S. depends on pollination by animals. The U.S. and Canada grow more than 100 different crops that require animals for pollination. Unfortunately, both native pollinator species and honey bee colonies have experienced widespread and significant population declines.

In response to this looming threat to domestic agricultural production, the 2008 Farm Bill mandated that USDA conservation programs be used to help restore and manage pollinator habitat. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Pheasants Forever and other conservation

partners worked together to develop a new practice in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) targeting habitat for ecologically and economically significant pollinator species.

The CP42-Pollinator Habitat practice was developed and comprised of a diverse mix of at least nine species of pollinator friendly wildflowers (such as hoary vervain and butterfly milkweed), legumes (such as showy patridgepea and purple prairieclover), and native shrubs (such as American plum). Native bees and other pollinators come in many different shapes and sizes and have different wildflower needs. The more diverse the pollinator habitat is, the better it will be for a host of wildlife species.

As a good rule of thumb, include at least twenty wildflower species in your planting to provide a variety of plant structure, flower shapes, colors, and blooming periods. To meet the needs of native pollinators, pollinator habitat must include a minimum of three flowers that bloom during the following periods: April to May, June to July, and August to October.



*Orange sulphur (Colias eurytheme) on red clover.*



*Working farms can receive financial assistance to create high diversity pollinator habitat.*

## Bee Facts

- There are approximately 4,000 native bee species in the U.S.
- Bumblebees are the only social native bee that live in colonies like the honey bee.
- 70% of native bee species nest in the ground.
- Many bee species only travel 200 yards from nests.
- Nest sites require direct sunlight.

## INTERESTING FACT

**75%** The percent of all flowering plants in the world that require the use of pollinators to reproduce.



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Native plants such as hoary vervain and claspng coneflower can attract a diversity of beneficial insects.



The larvae of monarch butterflies feed exclusively on milkweed plants (*Asclepias* spp.).

**Purpose**

- Provide beneficial habitat for pollinators and many other wildlife species
- Provide nesting, egg-laying, nectar and pollen sources for pollinators.

**Eligibility**

- Acres must be cropland or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of six crop years. Years are determined by the Farm Bill.
- Eligible acres may be signed up on a continuous basis and do not have to wait for a sign up period as long as acres are available.
- Does not have to be Highly Erodible Land (HEL) to be eligible.
- Minimum size requirements for CP42 is 0.5 acres and there is no maximum.
- Contracts must have a duration of 10 years.

**Rental Rate**

- Annual payment based on the county soil rental rate established for the three predominate soils.

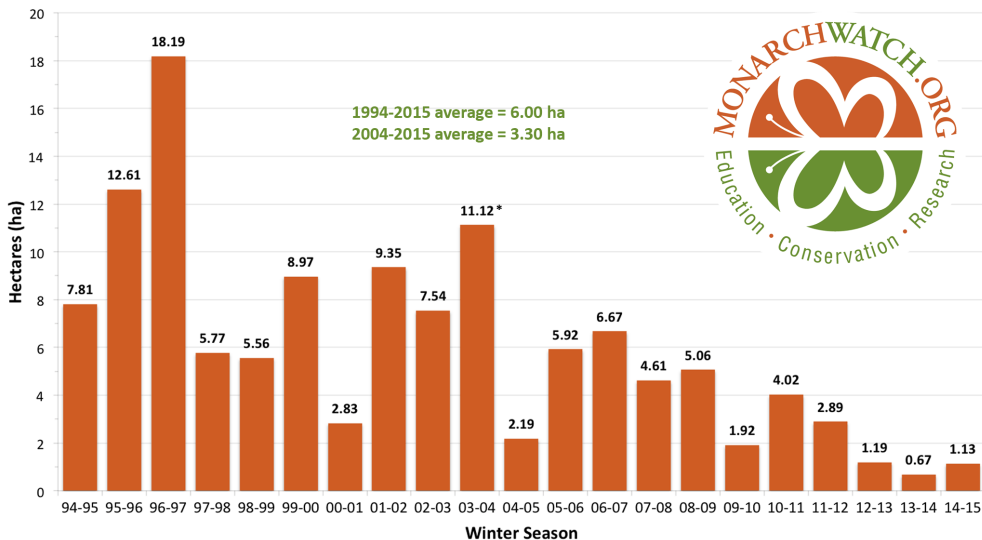
**Incentives**

- One time sign up bonus payment (SIP) of \$150 per acre.
- Reimbursement payment of approximately 50% of costs for establishment and management practices.

**Management**

- Mid-Contract Management (MCM) is required at least once during the length of the contract.
- If CP42 is planted into existing grass cover, an initial MCM activity will be required to establish the planting.
- Haying and grazing are not allowed on CP42 acres.

Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico



Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2003-2014 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

\* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, wildlife biologists are available to help provide wildlife habitat guidance, technical assistance on the available conservation programs and design seeding mixtures.

For further information visit [NebraskaPF.com](http://NebraskaPF.com) or call 844-733-3669.



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