



A monarch butterfly on a purple coneflower

Nectar Corridors

Enhancement Activity

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers an opportunity to promote improved plant management by rewarding or encouraging the use of nectar producing plant corridors in field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.

Agricultural productivity is directly dependent on pollinators. Approximately 75% of all cultivated crops require pollination to produce seed and fruit. The majority of pollinators are insects but some birds and bats also play a major role. The services of native pollinators are worth an estimated \$4.1 billion dollars a year to U.S. agriculture. Both native and domestic pollinators are disappearing, largely due to habitat loss. Nectar corridors can provide the proper habitat for pollinators as well as other resource benefits.

Benefits

- Increase plant health and vigor
- Improve fruit set and overall quality
- Increase fruit size
- Increase productivity per acre
- Increase biodiversity
- Increase population of beneficial insects
- Decrease use of pesticides
- Enhance wildlife habitat



A honeybee on an apple blossom

Planting Requirements

Nectar corridors should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in size and include at least one early, mid and late flowering species from the following table. The corridor must remain undisturbed throughout the growing season or period of bloom. Management or maintenance activities such as mowing, haying or grazing must be conducted outside of the growing season. Some plants produce toxins that are poisonous to pollinators. California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) and several species of rhododendron are known to produce toxic nectar and should not be used in plantings.

Plants for Pollinators									
Name		Origin		Growth Type			Bloom Period		
Common	Scientific	Native	Introduced	Forb	Shrub	Tree	Early	Mid	Late
alsike clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>		●	●			●		
beebalm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	●		●				●	
black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	●		●				●	
blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	●		●					●
butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	●		●				●	
cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	●		●				●	
common boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	●		●					●
common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	●		●				●	
crimson clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>		●	●					●
Eastern columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	●		●				●	
goldenrods	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	●		●					●
great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	●		●					●
Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	●		●					●
ladino clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>		●	●			●		
purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	●		●				●	
sunflower	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	●		●					●
threadleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	●		●					●
white sweet clover	<i>Melilotus alba</i>		●	●			●		
wild blue indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	●		●				●	
wild ageratum	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	●		●					●
yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>	●		●					●
yellow sweet clover	<i>Melilotus officianalis</i>		●	●			●		
blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i>	●			●			●	
buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	●			●			●	

Plants for Pollinators									
Common	Name Scientific	Origin		Growth Type			Bloom Period		
		Native	Introduced	Forb	Shrub	Tree	Early	Mid	Late
persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	●			●		●		
pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	●			●		●		
raspberry, blackberry	<i>Rubus</i>	●			●			●	
smooth sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	●			●			●	
staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus hirta</i>	●			●			●	
sweet pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	●			●			●	
black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	●				●	●		
black tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	●				●	●		
choke cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	●				●	●		
linden, basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	●				●	●		
maple	<i>Acer</i>	●				●	●		
redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	●				●	●		
sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	●				●	●		
swamp tupelo	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>	●				●	●		
tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	●				●	●		
wild plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	●				●	●		

NOTE: THIS LIST COVERS MAJOR NECTAR PRODUCING PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST, NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST. IT SHOULD BE TAILORED FOR YOUR STATE. NATIVE REFERS TO THE U.S.



Insecticides kill pollinators and should not be used in the corridor. Herbicides destroy plants that provide food and shelter for pollinators. Even natural herbicides and botanical insecticides can harm bees. Invasive species should be controlled using the least intrusive method. If pesticides are used in adjoining fields, consider applying them in the evening when most insect pollinators are not active.

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by maintaining (benchmark activity) or implementing (new activity) nectar corridors on your operation. All CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

Benchmark enhancement activities are those that are already in place or being performed at the time of signup. Benchmark enhancements receive payments in the first year of the CSP contract. Benchmark enhancements receive 120% of the enhancement payment rate in the first year. The payment declines each year as follows: 120%, 100%, 80%, 60%, 30%, 10%, 0%. *New enhancement activities* are those that will be implemented or performed during the contract period. New enhancements are paid at a flat rate of 100% each year once they are established.

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

- I have elected to use the nectar corridor plant management enhancement activity and understand the requirements of this activity.
- I certify that the benchmark activities listed below are already in place on my operation.
- I will establish the new activities listed below during my contract period. I understand that I will not receive a CSP enhancement payment until the activity is implemented.
- I agree to provide written documentation of the activity performed (use the attached worksheet or equivalent) to NRCS upon request.
- I agree to keep records of receipts for any materials, parts, equipment or services used to implement this activity.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of this activity.

Client's signature:

Date:

Enter the total number of acres of the enhancement activity that will be implemented or maintained under the CSP contract in the table below. Enhancement activities receiving financial assistance from other federal programs will not receive a CSP payment until they are no longer required in that contract.

Enhancement Activity	Benchmark Activity	New Activity
Total number of nectar corridor acres under CSP		

Reviewed by NRCS, signature:

date:

