

Homestead Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Planning

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Northeast Pollinator Plants
<http://northeastpollinator.com>

Reduce lawn to only where we needed it and create habitat wherever we can.

Lawn provides really no habitat, increases run-off and our mowing one hour pollutes as much as driving a car 100 miles.

An ideal pollinator habitat would include native plants which:

- Support a diversity of pollinators, by including a diversity of flowering plants, though **10 carefully selected species can be enough.**
- Some research has shown a **leveling off of diversity of pollinators with over 20 plant species.**
- Select **3 species** flowering from each time slot, **early, mid-season and late.**
- Provide at least **one native bunching grass** for nesting.
- **That's 10 – 20 native species with varying color, shape, flowering time.**
- Plant in **groups of at least 6, ideally 8**, of the same species.
- 10-20 plants in groups of 6-8, planted 2' on-center (4 s.f./plant) = **240 s.f.** as a minimum ideal pollinator habitat garden, though, really, every little bit can help.
- Add **pithy or hollow stemmed plants** like raspberry, sumac for cavity nester.
- Provide areas of **bare sandy soil** for ground nesters; can create a "sand box".
- Ensure access to **clean, pesticide free water** within 300' of good foraging areas.



NOTE: Native perennials are the best source of nectar and pollen for native pollinators augmented by native trees and shrubs to extend the foraging season.

Pollinator Habitat Types for Homesteads:

Here are some options for turning lawn areas into landscape treatments that can support pollinators: Stop mowing, bee lawn, pollinator meadow, cottage garden, pollinator garden and containers.

1. AREAS TO STOP MOWING: See what grows, brush-hog 1/3 of area every 3 years to keep down brush.



2. BEE LAWN: over-seed existing lawn with white and alsike clovers or replant lawn with a slow-growing fescue mix and clovers. Mow monthly at 3"-4".



3. POLLINATOR MEADOW: Remove lawn and replant with a meadow mix such as Ernst Northeast Pollinator Mix.



Available from Ernst Conservation Seeds

Meadville, Pennsylvania

www.ernstseed.com

sales@ernstseed.com or (800) 873-3321

Recommended seeding rate: at least 7.2 bulk pounds per acre.

*Exact species composition subject to change, based on availability

Common Name	Botanical Name	Cultivar/Ecotype	Percent of Mix*
FORBS			
Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Commercial	9.68%
Arrow leaf aster	<i>Symphotrichum sagittifolius</i>	PA	0.31%
Bigleaf lupine	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	Commercial	11.46%
Blue false indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Southern WV	1.45%
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	PA	0.39%
Common monarch flower	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	PA	3.11%
Lanceleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Coastal Plain NC	14.78%
Maximilian's sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximilianii</i>	Commercial	2.18%
Meadow bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	PA	0.07%
New England aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	PA	0.22%
New York ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	PA	0.03%
Ohio spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	PA	0.5%
Partridge pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	PA	10.05%
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Southern WV	0.16%
Slender mountainmint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Commercial	0.62%
Tall white beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Commercial	5.99%
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Commercial	2.05%
GRASS			
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	'Camper'	36.95

- 4. POLLINATOR COTTAGE GARDEN:** Designed for plants to reseed and spread as they wish. Seed or transplant with young plants that reseed freely such as: Lupine, Rudbeckia, Bee Balm, Purple Milkweed, Goldenrod, Big Leaf Aster, Fleabane, Globe Thistle, Yarrow, Fireweed, Sunflowers and others from the plant palette cottage garden/meadow list.



- 5. POLLINATOR GARDEN:** Designed for plants to stay where you put them. Plant with young plants that are well-behaved, long-lasting with minimal spreading and reseeding, such as: Potentilla, Penstemon, Wild Geranium, Baptisia, Butterflyweed, Liatris, Joe-Pye Weed, Bergamot, Agastache, Helenium, N.Y. Ironweed, Asters, Echinacea, Wild Sunflowers, see plant palette garden-worthy list.



Photo Credit: Piet Oudolf's work, Pensthorpe

- 6. CONTAINERS:** Every little bit helps, even a window box, hanging basket or container. See the pollinator plant palette handout for options including herbs, annuals and perennials.

METHODS TO REMOVE LAWN

- Solarization - Plastic Sheeting:** takes 6 months, then turn over top 12 " of soil and amend soil and add micro-organisms and worms, process kills.
- Straw Composting:** takes 4-6 months, rototill in the fall, add 12" of straw, rototill again in the spring.
- Sheet Composting:** takes 4-6 months, cover lawn with layers, 3"-4" of grass clippings, 6 sheets thick of newspaper or cardboard, then 3"-4" of weed-free mulch.
- Sod-Cutting:** for small areas, cut sod with spade and remove, rent a sod-cutter for larger areas. (To kill weed seeds, but also beneficial organisms, water area, tack down clear plastic and leave 6-8 weeks to solarize; Jane skips the solarizing...)
- Rototilling:** 3 treatments, about 6 weeks. One deep tilling with added compost and lime, wait several weeks. Second, a very shallow tilling to remove emerging weeds, wait a few weeks. Third, repeat second step.
- Livestock Tractor:** Fence in chickens, pigs or goats and let them root through the area. Rototill in their waste.

