

# SEED A LEGACY



The Bee & Butterfly  
Habitat Fund

## Pollinator Habitat Program

## GUIDELINES

**Seed A Legacy enrollment is open year round, and applicants may apply to plant in the spring or fall. Applications will be reviewed and ranked in early March and September with applicants learning of their enrollment status after that process is completed.**

### 1. Sign-up Dates:

The BBHF is accepting applications 365 days a year. In order to review applications, deliver seed mixes and have things planted, we do have a general cut-off date for each planting season. For projects that will be planted in the spring, we cut applications off on March 1st. For projects that will be planted in the fall, we cut applications off on September 1st.

### 2. Application Process

Applications are accepted and reviewed through an on-line application process. The on-line application form will be accessible on the Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund (BBHF) website: <https://beeandbutterflyfund.org/>

Please make sure the following information is included with each Application and Contract:

- Fully complete the program application.
- Cooperator name, address, email address and contact phone number.
- Name and address to ship the pollinator seed mix to (no P.O. Boxes please).
- Aerial photo designating the location and size of the project.
- Aerial photograph showing the landscape within a 1-mile circumference of the proposed project.
- Three photos of the proposed site in order to help evaluate the site condition and site preparation.

- Legal description of the project (Section, Range and Township) or UTM of the project site.
- Location of the proposed project: County and State.
- Total acres of the project to be seeded.
- Location to the nearest registered or known apiary

### 3. Location to a Registered Apiary

Part of the application and ranking process is the location of the proposed project to a registered or known honey bee apiary in the state. Applicants should visit the appropriate state website (available state links are provided on the BBHF website) to determine the location in miles from the project site to the nearest registered apiary and include that information in the appropriate application location.



#### 4. Project Cost-Share

Projects that are 2 to 25 acres in size receive the seed mixtures at no cost! Projects 26 to 50 acres in size receive a 75% cost share, projects 51 to 75 acres in size receive a 50% cost share, projects 76 acres and larger receive a 25% cost share.

#### 5. Application Submission

An automated email replay will be sent to all applicants when an application has been submitted through the BBHF website. Landowners will be contacted using the information entered in their application form, but an email communication is preferred.

#### 6. Contract Length

For the Seed A Legacy program, landowners or land managers will sign a contract agreeing to:

- Maintain and manage the pollinator project for a 5-year period.
- The posting of two NextGen Habitat Project signs on each project.
- Grazing and haying of the project is allowed outside the annual dates of April 1 to September 30 of each year of the contract.

A sample contract can be reviewed on the BBHF [website](#).



#### 7. Existing Grass Sites

Land that is currently in grass cover (non-native rangeland) will need to have the existing grass cover fully terminated prior to enrollment in the program. Please see Guideline points #9, #12, #13 and #14 for additional guidance on enrollment of areas currently in grass cover. Land that is currently in native rangeland is not eligible for enrollment in the program.



#### 8. Pollinator Habitat Seed Mixtures

This program is being offered to help meet the critical habitat needs for monarch butterflies, honey bees, native pollinators and other wildlife. As such, seeding mixtures are designed to meet specific habitat and nutritional requirements for the target species and to ensure that maximum benefits are being obtained.

The information provided in your application is necessary to allow us to place seed orders and have your seed delivered as quickly as possible. The seed vendor will ship the seed mixture directly to the name and address provided in the application. This seed mixture is designed for projects that will be planted using a no-till grass drill.

The pollinator seed mixtures will arrive with NextGen Habitat Project signs inside the seed bags. These signs are to be posted on each project (2 signs per project).

#### 9. Pollinator Habitat Planting Guidance

For the Seed A Legacy program, enrolled landowners will be supplied with two separate seeding mixtures. 50% of the enrolled acres will be established to a pollinator habitat mixture designed to provide superior forage and nutrition for honey bees. This mixture will be comprised primarily of forage legume species documented to benefit honey bees.

The remaining 50% of the enrolled acres will be established to a pollinator habitat mixture designed to provide plants necessary for the life history and nutritional needs of Monarch butterflies. This mixture will be comprised of a wide variety of wildflowers and contain critically important milkweed species as Monarch larvae are obligate herbivores of milkweeds. Both seed mixtures will benefit many pollinator species, but because of their design, they establish differently and must be planted in two separate plots.

Landowners are to plant the pollinator habitat seeding mixtures they receive into two separate block plantings by May 15th of the initial year of the contract. For a 20-acre project, 10 acres are planted to the monarch butterfly mixture and

10-acres are planted to the honey bee mixture. The 2 pollinator habitat seeding mixtures are not to be mixed together at the time of planting.

Whenever possible, pollinator habitat seeding mixtures should be planted using a no-till grass drill to ensure the proper planting of the seed mixtures. Additional planting guidance includes:

- Seeding depth is critically important to the success of pollinator habitat seeding mixtures. Due to the nature of the species used in the mixtures and their associated seed sizes, seeds should not be seeded deeper than 1/8 of an inch at the time of planting.
- Tillage before planting the seed mixture is not recommended or encouraged. The use of a no-till grass drill should allow you to properly plant seed mixture without the use of tillage. If the site has any known history of noxious or invasive weeds like thistles, tillage before seeding will only encourage those aggressive weed species and reduce the success and effectiveness of the seeding mixtures.
- An herbicide application of Glyphosate at a rate of 2 quarts per acre prior to the initial seeding of the pollinator habitat seeding mixtures may be necessary to help reduce early weed competition. In areas with known or suspected weed competition, this strategy will help ensure your overall success.
- If weed competition after the project is planted is a concern, contact a BBHF biologist at 800-407-5337 for approved weed control options in the program. When necessary,



approved weed control options will likely be limited to:

- \* Shredding at an approved height and frequency.
- \* Herbicide spot spraying.
- \* Manual spot weed control.
- \* Use of a weed wick with approved herbicide and timing.

## 10. Pollinator Habitat Project Use Restrictions

Enrolled acres are restricted from haying, mowing, shredding and/or grazing from April 1st to September 30th of each year of the 5-year contract. This requirement is in place to ensure that the pollinator habitat benefit of the planting are in place and available at the most critical times of the year. Landowners are able to hay or graze the contracted acres outside of the April 1st to September 30th timeline.

## 11. Partnership Program Signs

Landowners will receive 2 NextGen Habitat Project signs that are required to be posted on the project. These signs are an important part of promoting the partnership and its success. Where possible, the signs should be posted on the project in a manner that the public is able to see the signs and learn about the program. The project signs will arrive inside of the seed mixture bags.



## 12. General Program Requirements

- The goal of the program is to establish new pollinator habitat in an area that did not have pollinator habitat. Areas that are in existing grass cover can qualify only if the current cover will be completely eliminated through chemical application (using both a fall and spring spraying of a non-selective herbicide) and re-established to an approved pollinator habitat seeding mixture. Areas that do not currently meet these requirements can be prepared with herbicide application now and enrolled in a future landowner signup period.
- There are no requirements allowing the public access to lands that are enrolled into the Seed A Legacy program. All rights and decisions regarding access to the land remain with the landowner.
- Violation of the contract can result in reimbursement of the cost of pollinator habitat seeding mixtures.

### 13. Establishing Habitat into Existing Grass Sites

Establishing high quality pollinator habitat into sites with an existing, established grass stand are by far the most challenging sites to produce effective, long-term results with. This is especially true in grass stands with smooth brome, Kentucky blue grass, fescue, etc.

The pollinator habitat mixes in the Seed A Legacy program are designed to establish a suite of plant species



that do not establish or maintain well with grass. The valuable pollinator species in the mixture will quickly be outcompeted by grasses without extensive and repeated management activities to control the grasses. Even when a high percentage of the grass

stand has been eliminated with an herbicide application, the establishment of the pollinator seed mixture will be slower to establish than seed mixtures that are planted into a fully prepared site like crop stubble.

When possible, projects with existing grass stands will produced substantially improved pollinator benefits in the long run by following this proven set of suggestions:

#### Option A: Farming the area for 1 growing season

1. In the spring, plant the project area to a normal planting rate of RoundupReady® Soybeans and continue glyphosate applications as needed throughout the growing season.
2. A project planted and managed for soybeans will create a great seed bed as well as add nitrogen to the soil to benefit your new pollinator projects establishment.
3. Pollinator projects can be no-till drilled or broadcast seeded that fall following a hard freeze in a 'Dormant Seeding' process.
4. A dormant seeding is planted at a time of the year when the soil temperatures have dropped low enough (less than 50°F) that the pollinator seed mix will not germinate until the next spring when the soil temperatures reach 55°F. This is a highly successful, proven way of establishing diverse seeding mixtures

#### Option B: Eliminating the grass component

1. Remove the existing grass cover through haying or prescribed fire activities. Removal of the existing grass

cover is essential in preparing the site for an herbicide application.

2. When grasses that have been removed through haying or prescribed fire have regrown to a height of about 6 inches of green growth, apply a glyphosate herbicide at a rate of 2 quarts/acre.
3. Make sure that any established grass stands that are on the border (adjoining) of the pollinator project are also sprayed or those grasses will negatively impact your pollinator within a short number of years by overtaking your pollinator planting.
4. Glyphosate applications should be applied on a sunny day while the air temperature is between 55° F and 75° F for effective results.
5. Spray a second Glyphosate application later in the year to remove any grasses that were terminated in the first application.

### 14. Future Pollinator Stand Management

Where high quality habitat projects are concerned, there are no projects that you can plant, walk away from it, and have great results for years to come. Fortunately, a few basic management suggestions will keep your project providing great pollinator results for many years to come.

Some important future management options include:

- When invasive cool-season grasses start to overtake your planting, you can often control them by applying a glyphosate herbicide application in the late fall following a hard freeze (< 27°F for 3 or more consecutive hours). A glyphosate application under these conditions will only impact the plants that are still green and growing (smooth brome, fescue, etc.) and will not impact the many native wild



flowers found in the monarch butterfly seed mix.

- Conducting a prescribed burn on a pollinator planting, or a portion of the planting on a three-year rotation. Prescribed burns conducted at the correct time of the year can produce significant benefits for the wildflower component of your seed mixtures.

#### 14. Prior Land Use Herbicide Considerations

For areas that were formerly in cropland with herbicide applications on them in the preceding 40 months, the herbicide use must be included in the application process for review. Crops that have had herbicides with a residual carryover will not be successful in their pollinator habitat establishment efforts if the herbicide residual impacts are still active. Some examples of herbicide use considerations that would prevent successful pollinator habitat establishment would include:

#### Herbicides and the number of months needed before planting pollinator habitat after the last herbicide application\*

Anthem	18 months
Authority Assist	30 months
Callisto	18 months
Dicamba	4 months
Dual II Magnum	12 months
Extreme	40 months
FirstRate	18 months
Flexstar GT 3.5	18 months
Glyphosate	0 months
Hornet WDG	26 months
Impact	18 months
Liberty 280 SL	6 months
OpTill or OpTill PRO	40 months
Outlook	4 months
Princep 4L	18+ months
Pursuit	40 months
Starane Flex	12 months
Stinger	18 months
Surestart	26 months

\* This herbicide summary is incomplete and does not contain all of the pre and post emergent herbicides that will have a negative impact on the establishment of pollinator habitat.

Source: *Herbicide rotation restrictions in forage and cover cropping systems. Wisconsin crop weed science, University of Wisconsin – Extension.*

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE  
IN 12 STATES: IA, IL,  
IN, KS, MI, MN, MO,  
ND, NE, OH, SD, AND WI.



PRIVATE, PUBLIC  
AND CORPORATE  
LANDOWNERS ARE  
ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL



ENROLLMENT IS OPEN  
ALL YEAR FOR FALL  
OR SPRING PLANTING



The Bee & Butterfly  
Habitat Fund

*A Unique Conservation Solution.*

Questions? Learn more  
and speak to a biologist  
at 800-407-5337.

Or visit our website at  
[BeeAndButterflyFund.org](http://BeeAndButterflyFund.org).