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# ASSESSING & PRIORITIZING PROJECT SITES

The selection of appropriate locations for pollinator habitat is important to protect pollinators from inputs such as pesticides and to maximize habitat benefits. Pollinators need food (pollen & nectar), nesting and clean water sources, so these are important components for site selection. As a general rule, the habitats most beneficial to local pollinators will be those that historically existed in that general area. This may mean treeless prairie habitat in some areas and tree and shrub planting in others. Below are some considerations for site selection, followed by habitat assessment calculators for rural and urban landscapes that can be used to further guide decision-making about pollinator habitat locations or to assess the quality of pollinator habitat before and after projects are completed. The following are key considerations for selecting pollinator habitat projects:

1) Look for areas away from pesticide and fungicide use, as well as areas that lack widespread disturbances that may impact pollinators (at least 200 feet).

2) Habitat complexes and corridors provide “safe zones” and natural passageways for pollinators, as well as nesting and forage sites, and sources of water.

3) Some bees have a relatively small flight distance and benefit from having water and food sources within 200 feet of nesting sites.

4) Ground nesting bees benefit from open soil and planting clump-forming native grasses. Cavity nesting bees benefit from hedgerows, windbreaks and treelines, as well as man-made nest structures.

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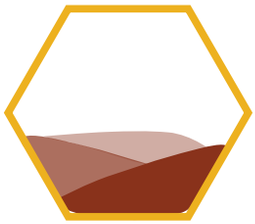
## RURAL LANDSCAPES



*This calculator is intented to provide a rough estimation of habitat value.*

### 1. SIZE OF PROJECT PROVIDING POLLINATOR HABITAT

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-10 acres | 5 points |
| ☐ 11-40 acres | 10 points |
| ☐ 41-79 acres | 15 points |
| ☐ > 80 acres | 20 points |

Total points ☐

### 2. HABITAT TYPE (check all that apply)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Prairie/Grassland | 3 points |
| ☐ Wetland | 3 points |
| ☐ Lake/River | 3 points |
| ☐ Savanna/Woodland | 3 points |
| ☐ Deciduous/Coniferous | 3 points |

Total points ☐

### 3. COVER DIVERSITY (# of plant species)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-10 species | 1 points |
| ☐ 11-19 species | 3 points |
| ☐ 20-39 species | 7 points |
| ☐ > 40 species | 10 points |

Total points ☐

*Exclude invasives from species totals.*

### 4. SEASONS WITH 3 BLOOMING SPECIES PRESENT

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1 season | 3 points |
| ☐ 2 seasons | 7 points |
| ☐ 3 seasons | 10 points |

Total points ☐

### 5. HABITAT CONNECTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Isolated project | 5 points |
| ☐ Connected to other habitat | 15 points |
| ☐ Part of complex/corridor | 20 points |

Total points ☐

### 6. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS (check all that apply)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Exposed soil for nesting | 5 points |
| ☐ Trees and shrubs for nesting | 5 points |
| ☐ Clean water sources | 5 points |

Total points ☐

### 7. PESTICIDE RISK (% of project perimeter adjacent to pesticide use)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-25% | -4 points |
| ☐ 26-50% | -8 points |
| ☐ 51-75% | -12 points |
| ☐ 76-100% | -16 points |

Total points ☐

### 8. LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING POLLINATOR SPECIES GOALS (professional judgement)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Low | 3 points |
| ☐ Medium | 6 points |
| ☐ High | 9 points |

Total points ☐

### 9. EXPECTED PROJECT LIFESPAN

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-5 years | 1 point |
| ☐ 6-10 years | 3 points |
| ☐ 11-20 years | 5 points |
| ☐ Permanent | 10 points |

Total points ☐

Grand Total ☐

| | |
|---|---|
| Exceptional Quality Habitat | **100-86** |
| High Quality Habitat | **85-71** |
| Medium Quality Habitat | **70-50** |
| Low Quality Habitat | **49-0** |

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# ASSESSING & PRIORITIZING PROJECT SITES

## URBAN POLLINATOR & ECOLOGICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

*This calculator is intented to provide a rough estimation of habitat value.*

### 1. SIZE OF PLANTED AREA PROVIDING HABITAT

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ <.1 acres | 5 points |
| ☐ 0.11 - 0.29 acres | 10 points |
| ☐ 0.3 - 0.5 acres | 15 points |
| ☐ > 0.5 acres | 20 points |

Total points ☐

### 2. HABITAT TYPE (check all that apply)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Prairie/Grassland/Filter Strip | 3 points |
| ☐ Wetland/Swales/Biofiltration | 3 points |
| ☐ Lake/River/Emergent Vegetation | 3 points |
| ☐ Savanna/Woodland | 3 points |
| ☐ Deciduous/Coniferous | 3 points |

Total points ☐

### 3. COVER DIVERSITY (# of plant species)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-10 species | 2 points |
| ☐ 11-19 species | 5 points |
| ☐ 20-39 species | 10 points |
| ☐ > 40 species | 15 points |

Total points ☐

*Exclude invasives from species totals.*

### 4. SEASONS WITH 3 BLOOMING SPECIES PRESENT

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1 season | 4 points |
| ☐ 2 seasons | 8 points |
| ☐ 3 seasons | 12 points |

Total points ☐

### 5. HABITAT CONNECTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Isolated project | 5 points |
| ☐ Connected to other habitat | 15 points |
| ☐ Part of complex/corridor | 20 points |

Total points ☐

### 6. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS (check all that apply)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Installed habitat structures | 5 points |
| ☐ Trees and shrubs for nesting | 5 points |
| ☐ Clean water sources | 5 points |

Total points ☐

### 7. PESTICIDE RISK (% of project perimeter adjacent to pesticide use)

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1-25% | -4 points |
| ☐ 26-50% | -8 points |
| ☐ 51-75% | -12 points |
| ☐ 76-100% | -16 points |

Total points ☐

### 8. PERCENT COVER OF NATIVE VEGETATION IN PLANTED AREAS

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 60-69% | 5 points |
| ☐ 70-79% | 10 points |
| ☐ 80-100% | 15 points |

Total points ☐

### 9. FREQUENCY OF VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1 times per year | 5 points |
| ☐ 2 times per year | 10 points |
| ☐ 3 or more times per year | 15 points |

Total points ☐

Grand Total ☐

| | |
|---|---|
| Exceptional Quality Habitat | **100-86** |
| High Quality Habitat | **85-71** |
| Medium Quality Habitat | **70-50** |
| Low Quality Habitat | **49-0** |