

# **CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E5121

# Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect and/or Monarch habitat

**Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting** 

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead** 

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals** 

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years** 

## **Enhancement Description**

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species that can provide nectar for Monarch butterflies and/or pollinators and forage and other habitat values for wildlife and livestock, particularly at times when targeted nectar, forage supply and quality, cover, and shelter are not available in other pastures.

## Criteria

- This enhancement is acceptable for use when converting from degraded pastureland sites that require NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) in order to stabilize the site to address a resource concern.
- Select native, perennial, grass/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, and will meet the nectar needs of specified, pollinating insects (and/or Monarch butterflies) at times when they will be present and foraging. These plants need to also provide forage or other habitat values for wildlife and livestock.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.

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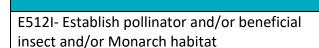


## **United States Department of Agriculture**

Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.



- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- Plants will be selected that help meet nectar requirements for Monarch butterflies during times that the Monarch will be present. Plant selection will help to increase scores on the state's approved NRCS Monarch butterfly habitat evaluation.





# **Documentation Implementation Requirements**



Pai	rticipant will:		PROGRAM
	species or grassland forage species select	ted will meet the desire	
	Species		Forage category (grass, legume, forb)
			chnique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for provide technical assistance, as needed.)
	Planting date		
	Planting method		
	Seeding rate		
			to implementation a grazing plan must be tly short to allow for forages to recover before re-
	•		m, during implementation in areas where ecies than can tolerate close grazing and

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During implementation, keep the following documentation:



- Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
- Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
- If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.
- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

## NRCS will:

Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Target Pollinator Species:				
WHEG score before implementation:				
WHEG score after implementation:				
Prior to implementation, provide and explain NR Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) as it relaenhancement.				ndard
As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will pr	ovide tech	nical as	sistance:	

- Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512).
- Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- o <u>If livestock are included in the system</u>, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.

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During implementation, evaluate any planned
changes to verify they meets the enhancement
criteria.



☐ After implementation, verify the planned perennial grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.

## **NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name	Contract Number	-
Total Amount Applied	Fiscal Year Completed	
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature		