Photo courtesy NRCS

**General Provisions**

The purpose of the CP42 practice is to establish a perennial cover of pollinator habitat to enhance environmental benefits. The practice is open for enrollment on a continuous signup basis, and the contract term is 10 years.

Tennessee has one approved herbaceous mixture (per acre rate):

- Little bluestem – 1.5 lbs. Pure Live Seed (PLS)
- Sideoats grama – 1 lb. PLS
- Lanceleaf coreopsis – 3 ounces
- Purple prairie clover – 2 ounces
- Illinois bundleflower – 2 ounces
- Purple coneflower – 6 ounces
- False sunflower – 3 ounces
- Gray-headed coneflower – 3 ounces
- Black-eyed susan – 6 ounces
- Partridge pea – 5 ounces
- Rigid goldenrod – 2 ounces

(Total of 4.5 pounds of seed per acre)

- Alfalfa, red clover, ladino clover, crimson clover, or buckwheat may be substituted in the above mix, but a single species substitution cannot exceed 10% (1 forb species, 3 ounces of seed) and a multiple cannot exceed 20% of the planting mixture (2 forb species, 6 ounces of seed). Substitutions of native forbs with introduced legumes should be a straight replacement by species and seeding rate from the above mixture.

Pollinator habitat must remain in the location designated in the plan for the contract period.

For crop fields of less than 10 acres, pollinator habitat must be at least 1.0 acre, either as one block or strip, or two 0.5 acre blocks or strips. For crop fields that are 10 acres or larger, a minimum of 10% of the field may be established to pollinator habitat. Individual blocks or strips of pollinator habitat cannot be smaller than 0.5 acre.

Pollinator habitat established in strips must be at least 20 feet wide.

Whole fields may be established to pollinator habitat as long as the crop field is at least 0.5 acre in size.

An optional shrub planting component may be included in the pollinator habitat planting. If desired, a shrub component of no more than 20% of the pollinator habitat may be established. A shrub planting must be at least 0.1 acre within each pollinator block or strip.

For a shrub component at least three species from the following list must be planted: crabapple, silky dogwood, Chickasaw plum, American plum, chinkapin, indigobush, beautyberry, elderberry, maple leaf viburnum, or one of either shining, staghorn, or fragrant sumac.

The planting period for the herbaceous planting is between February 1 and June 1. Shrub planting dates are December 1 to April 1.

Within the pollinator habitat additional woody habitat for nesting may be established (optional) with cost share, including brush piles, or felled trees as part of edge feathering. Brush piles must have a 12 foot or larger base and four foot height. Felled trees must be at least six inches in diameter. Woody habitat cannot exceed 1,500 square feet per acre of pollinator habitat (0.03 ac.), up to a limit of 1.0 acre per contract.

**Specifications**

The following specifications are required as part of the CRP conservation plan and contract:

1. A soil test within 24 months of planting to determine liming needs. Soil tests will be based on University of Tennessee standard methods. Omit lime if pH is above 5.0. No fertilizer is applied for establishment.
2. The no-till method of planting on steeper areas to avoid excessive erosion. The use of a special native grass drill will be required.
3. Conventional seedbed preparation (plowing and disking or harrowing) on flatter slopes. For conventional the field must be allowed to settle unless a cultipacker is used to firm the seedbed. Broadcasting seed requires a carrier (e.g. pelleted lime).

4. Herbicide applications to control any weeds or vegetation existing prior to planting.

5. An approved temporary cover if the contract is approved outside the designated planting period and erosion may occur.

6. Control of weed competition through the first growing season after planting, if necessary, may consist of mowing the herbaceous plantings no lower than 12 inches (i.e. above the height of the desirable plants) when undesirable weeds reach a height of at least 18 inches. Mowing should be done through the first summer as needed until August 1.

7. Normal maintenance is required to insure the pollinator habitat persists for the life of the contract. Normal maintenance of pollinator habitat typically consists of “spot spraying” with an approved herbicide to control woody species invasion, prescribed burning, and/or rotational disking. Prescribed burning may be the best way to manage the pollinator habitat but may require a firebreak. Strip Disking is also highly preferred because disking will suppress grasses and aid in germination of forb seeds. Mowing to maintain pollinator habitat is acceptable by mowing every other year outside the primary nesting season of April 15-July 1, but mowing is the least preferred method. Mowing alone smothers forbs, may increase undesirable grasses, and fails to control invasive trees (e.g. maples and sweetgum). However, mowing may be a needed pre-treatment to other scheduled normal maintenance activities.

8. At least one management practice in the mid-contract period will be required to be performed on the herbaceous portion of the practice. Options include strip disking, strip herbiciding, legume interseeding, or prescribed burning. Shrub plantings do not require mid-contract treatment.
## CP42 – POLLINATOR HABITAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field no.</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>Total Pollinator Habitat Acres</th>
<th>Total number blocks or strips</th>
<th>Total Pounds Seed (@mix rate of 4.5#/ac)</th>
<th>OPTION: Introduced Legume species</th>
<th>Total Introduced Legume Seed amount (oz or lb)</th>
<th>OPTION: Shrubs (Y or N)</th>
<th>Shrub Species</th>
<th>OPTION: Woody Habitat (logs or piles)</th>
<th>Woody Habitat (Total Acres)</th>
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</table>

Check the appropriate planning requirement:

### Planning Requirement

- **Green Firebreak – Perimeter establishment** of approximately 30 foot wide cool season (primarily annual, e.g. wheat, clover, cereal rye) mixture grass strip. Provide attached CRP firebreak jobsheet, if applicable.

- **Temporary Cover** – An approved summer or winter temporary cover will be established:
  - List Species:
  - Seeding Rate:
  - Seeding Date:

- **Weed Control** – Spring treatment. Mow prior to herbiciding. Apply herbicide when re-growth is 4-6 inches according to label. Apply approved pre-emerge after planting to suppress weed re-growth.

- **Weed Control** – Fall and spring treatment. Mow prior to fall application. Apply herbicide when re-growth is 4-6 inches according to label. Re-treat in spring when weeds or grass actively begin growing prior to planting.

- **Seedbed Preparation** – No-till method. If present, kill existing vegetation with approved herbicide.

- **Seeding** – No till drilling by setting drill to plant seed at 1/8 inch depth.

- **Seeding** – Broadcast seeding requires carrier and cultipacking or rolling one time after seeding to cover.

- **Liming** – Apply according to soil test, except lime should not be applied if pH above 5.0. Do not apply fertilizer.

- **Brush piles** – Install 2-5 brush piles per acre (12 foot diameter base; 120 square feet each) not to exceed 1 acre of woody habitat (piles and/or logs) for the contract. Space brush piles apart and place near existing woodlines, waterbodies, etc.

- **Logs** – Install within pollinator habitat a minimum of 6 trees felled per acre from the adjacent forest land as part of edge feathering, not to exceed 1 acre of woody habitat (logs and/or piles) for the contract. Space trees apart within habitat.

- **Maintenance** – Clip weeds above seedling height every 1-2 months the first growing season after planting. Do not clip after August 1. After first season, clip high (8 inches) once every two years outside primary nesting season (4/15 – 7/1).

- **Maintenance** – Prescribe burn once every 3-4 years of contract in spring prior to April 15.

- **Maintenance** – Alternate strip mow and disk 1/3-1/2 of acreage each year outside nesting season of 4/15 – 7/1.

- **Maintenance** – Control invasion of weeds and woody plants by “spot spraying” with approved herbicide. Infestation present if 20% or more of stand dominated by undesirable plants.

- **Mid-Management** – Strip disk 1/3 or 1/2 (circle one) of acreage each year, in rotation years 4 to 6. For re-enrollment contract, may perform from year 1 to 6. Disked width up to 60 feet separated by 1x un-disked strip. Mowing, managed haying, or burning may be a pre-treatment to facilitate disking. Whole field disking acceptable if field less than 4 acres.

- **Mid-Management** – Strip herbicide 1/3 or 1/2 (circle one) of acreage each year, in rotation years 4 to 6. For re-enrollment contract, may perform from year 1 to 6. Sprayed width up to 60 feet separated by 1x unsprayed strip. Mowing, managed haying, or burning may be needed first to facilitate treatment. Whole field spraying acceptable if field less than 4 acres.

- **Mid-Management** – Legume interseed 1/2 the field in rotation with native legumes between year 4, 5, or 6. Must pre-treat by removing excess litter. For re-enrollment, may perform from year 1 to 6. Whole field treatment acceptable if field less than 4 acres. Refer to approved native legume list for rates and species.

- **Mid-Management** – Prescribe burn one time between year 4 and 6. If more than one field, burn 1/2 the number of fields each year in rotation to maintain some nesting cover. For re-enrollment, may perform year 1 to 6.