



Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form for Project Planning

For solar companies and local governments to meet pollinator/wildlife
habitat certification



1. PERCENT OF PROPOSED SITE VEGETATION COVER TO BE DOMINATED BY WILDFLOWERS

- 31-45 % +5 points
- 46-60 % +10 points
- 61+ % +15 points

Total points

Note: Projects may have "array" mixes and diverse border mixes; forb dominance should be averaged across the entire site. The dominance should be calculated from total numbers of forb seeds vs. grass seeds (from all seed mixes) to be planted.

2. PLANNED % OF SITE DOMINATED BY NATIVE SPECIES COVER

- 26-50% +5 points
- 51-75%. +10 points
- 76-100% +15 points

Total points

3. PLANNED COVER DIVERSITY (# of species in seed mixes; numbers from upland and wetland mixes can be combined)

- 10-19 species +5 points
- 20-25 species +10 points
- 26 or more species +15 points

Total points

Exclude invasives from species totals.

4. PLANNED SEASONS WITH AT LEAST 3 BLOOMING SPECIES PRESENT (check/add all that apply)

- Spring (April-May) +5 points
- Summer (June-August) +5 points
- Fall (September-October) +5 points

Total points

See BWSR [Pollinator Toolbox](#) about bloom seasons

5. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS WITHIN .25 MILES (check/add all that apply)

- Native bunch grasses for nesting +2 points
- Native trees/shrubs for nesting +2 points
- Clean, perennial water sources +2 points
- Created nesting feature/s +2 points

(bee blocks, etc.) Total points

6. SITE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- Detailed establishment and management plan developed with funding/contract to implement +15 points
- Signage legible at forty or more feet stating pollinator friendly solar habitat (at least 1 every 20ac.) +5 points

Total points

7. SEED MIXES

- Mixes are composed of at least 40 seeds per square foot +5 points
- All seed genetic origin within 175 miles of site ([pg.7-8 of Guidance](#)) +5 points
- At least 2% milkweed cover to be established from seed/plants +10 points

Total points

8. INSECTICIDE RISK

- Planned on-site insecticide use or pre-planting seed/plant treatment (excluding buildings/electrical boxes, etc.) -40 points
- Communication/registration with local chemical applicators about need to prevent drift from adjacent areas. +10 points

Total points

Grand Total

Provides Exceptional Habitat >85
Meets Pollinator Standards 70-84

Project Name: _____

Vegetation Consultant: _____

Project County: _____

Project Size: _____

Projected Seeding Date: _____

Send completed forms, project plans, seed mixes and any communication with pesticide applicators to dan.shaw@state.mn.us

Note: Percent "cover" should be based on "absolute cover" (the percent of the ground surface that is covered by a vertical projection of foliage as viewed from above). To measure cover diversity use plots, and/or transects in addition to meander searches. Wildflowers in question 1 refer to "forbs" (flowering plants that are not woody or graminoids) and can include introduced clovers and other non-native species beneficial to pollinators. All project plans must include detailed vegetation establishment and management specifications (see sample specs on [BWSR's Habitat Friendly Solar Webpage](#)).