

# TECHNICAL NOTE

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## Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

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The purpose of this Technical Note is to provide guidance for the design and implementation of conservation plantings to enhance habitat for pollinators including: bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. Plant species included in this document are adapted to the Intermountain West; encompassing southern Idaho, eastern Oregon, northern Nevada and northern Utah. For species adapted to northern Idaho, central Oregon and eastern Washington refer to Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note 2B, “Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest”.

# Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

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## INTRODUCTION

Many of the world's crop species benefit from insect pollination, which is mostly provided by bees. In North America, bees pollinate billions of dollars worth of crops annually. Nearly one quarter of our diet comes from crops whose production benefits from pollinating bees.

Pollinators include bees, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, desert bats, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

Collectively, pollinators are critical to the function of terrestrial ecosystems because they enhance plant reproduction. Despite their importance, pollinators are threatened world-wide by habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, improper pesticide use, disease and parasites. This has serious economic implications for humans and for maintaining ecosystem diversity and stability.



**Green sweatbee on hoary tansyaster. Derek Tilley, NRCS Aberdeen.**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service can assist landowners with habitat enhancement for pollinators by encouraging the establishment of an array of attractive plants that flower throughout the growing season. Plant species, both herbaceous and woody, that provide a source of nectar, pollen and cover for adult and immature pollinators, will also provide habitat for a large array of other wildlife species.

Well-chosen forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees planted along farm and ranch borders and within fields attract wildlife, including pollinators and other beneficial insects. The correct mix of plant species that bloom throughout the growing season will provide a continuous source of nectar and pollen needed by pollinators and other beneficial insects. An ideal plant mix would be one that consists of up to nine species: three that bloom early in the season, three in mid-season and three in late season. In precipitation zones below 16 inches mean annual rainfall in the intermountain west, 9 adapted and commercially available species may not always be available. When seed of pollinator-friendly species are limited, at a minimum, try to have at least one blooming species available during the early, mid-, and late season.

Annual flowering plants can be useful tools in pollinator plantings because they produce tremendous amounts of flowers. However, annual plants only last one growing season and can be very competitive with perennial species that are slower establishing. Annual plants may also be “weedy”. Consequently, annuals should only be considered for small, odd areas, and should not be mixed with perennials. A few annual plants that readily attract pollinators include buckwheat, canola, safflower, berseem clover, camelina, lentils and dry peas. Annuals can also be used as interim crops prior to planting perennials, to suppress weed growth and can help to reduce the weed seed bank in the soil.

## HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS

Habitat needs for pollinators are similar to other animal species: food, shelter, nesting sites and water. Shelter and nesting sites may be a limiting factor in your project area and should be considered during planning.

Nectar and pollen from flowering plants provide food and water for pollinators. Additional needs for water, if necessary, can be met in riparian areas and wetlands, and with birdbaths, fountains, irrigation water, and moisture from plants. Moist salt licks help provide mineral requirements for butterflies and sweat bees. Shelter and nesting habitat needs differ by pollinator species and include bare or partially vegetated, well-drained soil; soil banks and cliffs, dead standing or fallen trees with beetle emergence holes, live trees, clumps of grass, live brush, tall grass, piles of leaves and sticks, wood piles, tree bark and rock crevices.

Most native bees are solitary, nesting underground, or less commonly, above ground using beetle holes in

## Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

dead-wood or dead pithy stems (e.g. elderberry, sumac or rose). Bumblebees are social with colonies of dozens to hundreds of workers. They typically nest in tree hollows or below-ground in old rodent burrows or in grass hummocks.

In pollinator plantings, use of pesticides should be avoided, especially insecticides. (Some applications,

such as carbaryl bran baits for grasshoppers, are safe for bees.) If pesticides must be used, leave some areas untreated as refuge habitat for predatory and parasitic insects and pollinators that can re-colonize treated areas. Harm to beneficial insects can also be limited by spraying at dusk when pollinators are nesting and not actively foraging.

**TABLE 1: HABITAT REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIVE POLLINATORS**

Solitary bees	Nectar and pollen	Nest in bare and partially vegetated soils where water won't pond; or in beetle holes in deadwood, within pithy stems or twigs, or construct surface nests of mud or leaf pulp
Bumblebees	Nectar and pollen	Nest cavities underground, often in old rodent burrows, or in hollow trees or within clumps of grass
Butterflies and moths	Nectar, nutrients, minerals and salts from rotting fruit, tree sap, clay deposits and mud puddles	Leaves and stems of larval host plants; also small woodpiles used by species that winter as adults
Hummingbirds	Nectar, insects, caterpillars, tree sap and willow catkins	Trees, shrubs and vines

## ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF POLLINATOR PLANTINGS

Pollinator-friendly plantings have the potential to provide multiple ecological benefits. They can:

**Reduce pesticide use.** Sequentially flowering plants provide forage and cover for predatory and parasitic insects that help control pest species. Established plant communities will resist weed invasion.

**Stabilize soil and provide ground cover.** Root systems and above ground vegetation hold soil in place, improve soil moisture infiltration, reduce the risk of erosion and serve as buffers which protect against surface water pollution. Legumes contribute nitrogen to the soil.

**Serve as windbreaks and shelterbelts.** Shrubs and trees protect farmsteads, feeding areas, crops and livestock from wind and dust damage. They also provide food, nesting and cover habitat for a great variety of wildlife, pollinators and other beneficial insects.

## ESTABLISHING POLLINATOR PLANTINGS: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Select an area that is at least 0.5 acres in size.** This will ensure adequate floral resources are available for pollinators.
- **Start right.** Most grasses and forbs, including legumes, can be started by direct seeding or in some cases by transplanting nursery seedlings. Flowering shrubs and trees are often best established by transplanting nursery seedlings.

## Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

- **Determine soil drainage and other soil limitation factors.** Most species will not do well in heavy, poorly drained or saline to sodic soils; select species that can perform well in the soils of the site.
- **Match plants with similar site preferences.** Choose plants that have similar soil and water requirements and that are adapted to the local climate.
- **Water wisely.** Shrub and tree plantings in the drier portions of the Intermountain West will require irrigation. For the best establishment biweekly watering the first 2 to 3 years is recommended. Once the plants are well established, watering less frequently, for a longer duration will drive the moisture deeper into the soil to ensure the plants develop their roots more fully, enhancing long-term survival.
- **Control weeds.** Most plants do not compete well with weeds during establishment. Start with a weed free area or create one using appropriate herbicides or tillage. Keep the area relatively weed free for the first 2 to 3 years of establishment. Mowing weeds during plant establishment will help suppress weed competition and encourage desired plants. However, some annual and biennial weeds are good nectar sources for pollinators and will die out naturally as the planting becomes established.
- **Protect planting from wildlife and livestock.** Fencing to protect the planting may be required in areas with abundant deer, antelope or elk, or with livestock such as sheep, cattle or horses. Monitor and control rodents and rabbits. This will ensure flowers are available to provide nectar, pollen and succulent foliage for pollinators.
- **Choose the right plant species.** Plantings should include a mixture of species that provide continual blooms throughout much of the growing season. Depending on the precipitation zone, at least one to three species are recommended for each bloom period: early, mid, and late. One or two grass species may also be included in the mix if ground cover is needed. Grasses should not comprise more than 25% of the mixture. To select plant species for your precipitation zone, use the Approved Pollinator Plant Lists (Tables 2 - 6).
- **Maintain plantings.** Treatments such as haying or mowing may be required outside of the primary flowering period(s) to remove plant litter or weeds. Spot-spray herbicide treatments may also be needed to control invasive or noxious weeds.

## PLANT SELECTION AND ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT PLANTINGS

### PLANT SELECTION

- Select plants from the Approved Plant List (found in appendix tables 2-6) that corresponds to your precipitation range.
- A mixture of 5 to 9 species including those that bloom in spring, summer and late summer (fall) are recommended.
- Select plants that will attract the target pollinator type(s).
- Consider pollination needs of nearby crops and select plants with different bloom periods than the crops to avoid attracting pollinators away from crop fields.
- Species with an asterisk (\*) are known to establish easily and are commercially available in large quantities. It is strongly recommended several of these species be included in all mixes. The remaining species for each mix will depend on seed availability and the price the landowner is willing to pay.
- Species not included on these lists may be substituted only if approved by the State Plant Materials Specialist.

## **RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES**

### **SITE PREPARATION**

- Eliminate existing vegetation prior to seeding with tillage, herbicide, or a combination of techniques.
- Fallow the area to be seeded for at least one growing season. Delay seeding until after a flush of fall germinating weeds. These weed seedlings need to be controlled prior to any seeding.
- Create a firm, weed-free seed bed. Rule of thumb: a person's footprint will not be deeper than ½ inch into the seedbed.
- Some herbicides can have residual carryover and can negatively affect seedling establishment. Know the cropping history and past herbicide use of the site to be planted.

### **SEEDING**

- Seed forbs and grasses at the same time during a late fall dormant planting (November or December).
- One of two seeding methods is recommended:
  - Drill seed into a firm weed-free seedbed. The best drill seedings have been accomplished by setting the drill to place the seed no deeper than ¼ inch. Drag chains or press wheels help to cover the seed with a thin soil layer.
  - Broadcast seed into a weed-free seedbed. The best broadcast seedings have been accomplished by pulling the tubes on the drill and running the packer wheels with enough down pressure to create good furrows and seed to soil contact.
- Rice hulls, cracked grain or granular clay may be used to assist seed flow.
- Omit grasses from the planting mix in areas heavily infested with cheatgrass or medusahead to allow for the option of using selective grass herbicides. This should only be done if the ground is not highly erodible.

### **SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT**

- Plant shrub seedlings in early spring (late March through April) directly into soil where vegetation has been killed during the previous growing season with 1-2 applications of herbicides or by mechanical site preparation. Plant shrubs in areas that will not be mowed, or in rows to allow for mowing between the rows.
- Suppress weed growth around the shrubs with use of weed barrier fabric or herbicides.
- Install protective tubes or other barriers to reduce damage from rodents, rabbits and deer.

### **MANAGEMENT**

- Manage weeds during the first year by mowing to prevent spread of weed seed.
- Manage weeds during following years by spot spraying, using pre-emergent herbicides or herbicides applied during phases of perennial dormancy.
- Do not apply fertilizer during the first year of establishment.

**Establishment techniques different than those listed above may be used, but only with extreme caution.** The above-mentioned guidelines have proven to have the highest rates of success.

**THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH ESTABLISHING FORB PLOTS.** Many forb seedlings fail due to poor seed germination/emergence, weed competition, and neglect. Establishing, monitoring and maintaining forb plantings may be expensive and labor-intensive. The area may have to be re-seeded if an adequate stand is not achieved the first time.

**An alternative establishment method to seeding is transplanting forb seedlings.** Transplanting seedlings may initially be more expensive than seeding but may be less expensive in the long run, especially if a seeded stand fails, and has to be reseeded. The advantages of forb seedlings are: there are no seed dormancy/germination concerns, they already have a developed root system, and they can better compete with weeds. To establish forb plugs, use the same guidelines listed above for shrub establishment.



## Species Descriptions

Additional information for many of these species can be found in NRCS Plant Guides and Fact Sheets, available by download from the PLANTS Database ( <http://plants.usda.gov>). Seeding rates listed are pure live seeding rates, derived from a target rate of 25 PLS/ft<sup>2</sup> for species with <500,000 PLS/lb, and 50 PLS/ft<sup>2</sup> for species with >500,000 PLS/lb. **Rates should be adjusted appropriately when used as a part of a seed mixture.**

### Forbs and Legumes



Western Yarrow. William S. Justice , @ PLANTS Database

#### *Achillea millefolium*, western yarrow

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 0.5-1.5 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright to prostrate  
Wildlife Value: good forage  
Attracts: butterflies, some bees  
Flowers: white to yellow  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 1 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Blue columbine. Al Schneider @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

#### *Aquilegia spp.*, columbine

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-2 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate to rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent food  
Attracts: hummingbirds  
Flowers: blue-white to yellow  
Bloom: June-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 6 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-3 ft



Butterfly milkweed, J.S. Peterson @ PLANTS Database

#### *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly milkweed

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: toxic to livestock  
Attracts: butterflies  
Flowers: orange  
Bloom: July-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 15 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A

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Cicer milkvetch. Dan Ogle, NRCS Idaho

***Astragalus cicer***, cicer milkvetch

Origin: introduced forb

Mature Height: 1-3 ft

Growth Rate: moderate to rapid

Growth Habit: upright (lodges at maturity)

Wildlife Value: excellent forage

Attracts: bees

Flowers: cream

Bloom: May-July

Broadcast Seeding Rate: 7 lb/ac

In-row Spacing: N/A



Arrowleaf balsamroot. Al Schneider @ Plants Database

***Balsamorhiza sagittata***, arrowleaf balsamroot

Origin: native forb

Mature Height: 1-2 ft

Growth Rate: slow

Growth Habit: upright

Wildlife Value: excellent

Attracts: bees, butterflies

Flowers: yellow

Bloom: May-June

Broadcast Seeding Rate: 18 lb/ac

In-row Spacing: 3-4 ft



Basalt milkvetch. Gary A. Monroe @ PLANTS Database

***Astragalus filipes***, basalt milkvetch

Origin: native legume

Mature height: 1-3 ft

Growth Rate:

Growth Habit: upright

Wildlife Value: excellent forage

Attracts: bees

Flowers: white to cream

Bloom: May-July

Broadcast Seeding Rate: 9 lb/ac

In-row Spacing: N/A



Douglas' dustymaiden. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Chaenactis douglasii***, Douglas' dustymaiden

Origin: introduced forb

Mature Height: 1-3 ft

Growth Rate: rapid

Growth Habit: upright



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Wildlife Value: excellent food  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: white to pinkish  
Bloom: June-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 3 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Yellow beflower. Idaho Dept. of Transportation

*Cleome lutea*, Yellow beflower  
Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: yellow  
Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 11 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Crownvetch. Purdue University

*Coronilla varia*, crownvetch  
Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 1-2 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: spreading to upright  
Wildlife Value: good forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: white-pink  
Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 8 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Searl's prairie clover. Gary A. Monroe @ PLANTS Database

*Dalea spp.*, prairie clover  
Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-2.5 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: purple  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 7 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-3 ft

*Echinacea spp.*, coneflower  
Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1.5-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: butterflies, bees  
Flowers: white to purple  
Bloom: July-September  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 10 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-2 ft

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Blanketflower. Utah.gov

***Gaillardia aristata***, blanketflower

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-1.5 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent food and cover  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: orange, yellow  
Bloom: July-September  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 6 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-2 ft



Northern or Utah sweetvetch. USDA-ARS

***Hedysarum boreale***, northern or Utah sweetvetch

Origin: native legume  
Mature Height: 1-2 ft  
Growth Rate: upright to spreading  
Growth Habit: spreading to upright  
Wildlife Value: good forage  
Attracts: bees, butterflies  
Flowers: red to purple  
Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 24 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 3-4 ft



Sticky geranium. S. Hagwood @ PLANTS Database

***Geranium viscosissimum***, sticky geranium

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees, butterflies  
Flowers: purple  
Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 20 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Sunflower. A. Schneider @ PLANTS Database

***Helianthus species***, sunflower

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-5 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: good winter food  
Attracts: butterflies, bees and ants  
Flowers: yellow to orange  
Bloom: July-September



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Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-4 ft



Prairie blazingstar, R.A. Shadow, USDA-NRCS

***Liatris pycnostachya***, prairie blazingstar

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-4 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: good forage  
Attracts: bees, butterflies  
Flowers: pink to purple  
Bloom: June-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 9 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Lewis flax. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Linum lewisii***, Lewis flax

Origin: native forb  
Mature height: 1-2 ft

Growth Rate: moderate to rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife value: excellent food  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: light blue  
Bloom: May-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-2 ft



Blue flax. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Linum perenne***, blue flax

Origin: introduced forb  
Mature height: 1-2 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate to rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife value: excellent food  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: light blue  
Bloom: May-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-2 ft

***Lomatium dissectum***, fernleaf biscuitroot

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 0.5-2 ft  
Growth Rate: slow  
Growth Habit: erect  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: yellow green  
Bloom: June-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 24 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-5 ft

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Gray's biscuitroot. A. Schneider @ PLANTS Database

***Lomatium grayi***, Gray's biscuitroot

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 0.5-1 ft  
Growth Rate: slow  
Growth Habit: erect  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: white  
Bloom: April-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 24 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Nineleaf biscuitroot. A. Schneider @ PLANTS Database

***Lomatium triternatum***, nineleaf biscuitroot

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: slow  
Growth Habit: erect  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: yellow green

Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 20 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-5 ft



Birdsfoot trefoil. R. Mohlenbrock @ PLANTS Database

***Lotus corniculatus***, birdsfoot trefoil

Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 1.5-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: good winter food  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: yellow  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 3 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Hoary tansyaster. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Machaeranthera canescens***, hoary tansyaster

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: erect



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Wildlife Value: forage  
Attracts: bees, butterflies  
Flowers: blue to purple  
Bloom: August-October  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 2 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A

***Medicago sativa***, alfalfa  
Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: fast  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: purple  
Bloom: May-July (delay by cutting)  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 10 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A

***Medicago sativa* ssp. *falcata***, yellow blossom alfalfa  
Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: fast  
Growth Habit: upright, spreading  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: yellow  
Bloom: May – July (delay by cutting)  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 10 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Yellow sweetclover. J.S. Peterson @ PLANTS Database

***Melilotus alba* and *M. officinalis***, white and yellow sweetclover  
Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 1-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: fair forage  
Attracts: many bees  
Flowers: white or yellow  
Bloom: June-July

Broadcast Seeding Rate: 1 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Sainfoin. Image from glaucus.org.uk

***Onobrychis vicifolia***, sainfoin  
Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 2-5 ft  
Growth rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: larger bees  
Flowers: pink  
Bloom: May-July (delay by cutting)  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 34 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Firecracker penstemon. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

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***Penstemon eatonii***, firecracker penstemon

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-2.5 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees, wasps, hummingbirds  
Flowers: red  
Bloom: April-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Palmer's penstemon. Wikipedia

***Penstemon palmeri***, Palmer's penstemon

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: erect  
Wildlife Value: fair forage  
Attracts: larger bees  
Flowers: pink  
Bloom: May-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 3 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Rocky Mountain penstemon. A. Schneider @ PLANTS Database

***Penstemon strictus***, Rocky Mountain penstemon

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit:  
Wildlife Value: fair forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: purple  
Bloom: May-July  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 2 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Venus penstemon. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Penstemon venustus***, Venus penstemon

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 2-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid



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Growth Habit: erect  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: blue-purple  
Bloom: July-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 2 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Silverleaf phacelia. Clint Shock @ OSU

*Phacelia hastata*, silverleaf phacelia

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-2 ft  
Growth Rate:  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value:  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: blue-purple  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 7 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Prairie coneflower. C.A. Rechenhain @ PLANTS Database

*Ratibida columnifera*, prairie coneflower

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1-1.5 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: good forage  
Attracts: bees

Flowers: yellow/orange  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 3 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Small burnet. J. Duft @ PLANTS Database

*Sanguisorba minor*, small burnet

Origin: introduced forb  
Mature Height: 1-2.5 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: green-red  
Bloom: June-August  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 20 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-3 ft



Globemallow. Vince Tepedino, ARS Bee Research Lab.

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### ***Sphaeralcea* spp.**, globemallow

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 1.5-3 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: orange to red  
Bloom: April-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 3 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 2-4 ft

### ***Vicia americana***, American vetch

Origin: native legume  
Mature Height: 0.5-1 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: spreading  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: purple  
Bloom: May-June  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 34 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



Aster. G.A. Cooper @ PLANTS Database

### ***Symphyotrichum* spp.**, Aster

Origin: native forb  
Mature Height: 0.5-3 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: excellent food and cover  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: creamy white to purple  
Bloom: June-September  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: 1-2 ft

### ***Trifolium* spp.**, clover

Origin: introduced legume  
Mature Height: 0.5-1 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: spreading  
Wildlife Value: excellent forage  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: white, red, pink  
Bloom: May-July (delay by cutting)  
Broadcast Seeding Rate: 4 lb/ac  
In-row Spacing: N/A



**Shrubs, Half-shrubs and Trees**



Serviceberry. J. McMillian @ PLANTS Database

***Amelanchier alnifolia***, serviceberry

Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 6-15 ft  
 Growth Rate: slow  
 Growth Habit: upright  
 Wildlife Value: good cover and food  
 Attracts: butterflies, bees  
 Flowers: white  
 Bloom: May-June  
 In-row Spacing: 5-10 ft

***Buddleja* spp.** Butterfly bush

Origin: introduced shrub  
 Mature Height: 2-4 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate to rapid  
 Growth Habit: upright  
 Wildlife Value: excellent food and cover  
 Attracts: bees, butterflies  
 Flowers: purple  
 Bloom: June-July  
 Broadcast Seeding Rate: establish w/ plants  
 In-row Spacing: 3-4 ft



Siberian peashrub. R.A. Howard @ PLANTS Database

***Caragana* spp.** Siberian peashrub

Origin: introduced shrub  
 Mature Height: 6-20 ft  
 Growth Rate: rapid  
 Growth Habit: erect oval shrub  
 Wildlife Value: nesting  
 Attracts: large bees (especially bumblebees)  
 Flowers: small showy yellow  
 Bloom: April-June  
 In-row Spacing: 5-10 ft



Clematis. Tim Dring, NRCS Washington

***Clematis ligusticifolia***, clematis

Origin: native shrub or vine  
 Mature Height: 1 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: spreading and climbing vine  
 Wildlife Value: cover  
 Attracts: moths, bees  
 Flowers: white  
 Bloom: May-July  
 In-row Spacing: 2-6 ft



Cotoneaster. E.E. Herman @ PLANTS Database

***Cotoneaster integerrimus***, cotoneaster

Origin: introduced shrub  
 Mature Height: 4-6 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: multi-branched erect shrub  
 Wildlife Value: fruit, cover

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

Attracts: bees  
 Flowers: white  
 Bloom: May – June  
 In-row Spacing: 4 – 6 ft



Black hawthorn. Tim Dring, NRCS Washington

*Crataegus douglasii*, black hawthorn  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 12-15 ft  
 Growth Rate: slow  
 Growth Habit: upright  
 Wildlife Value: food and cover  
 Attracts: moths, bees, butterflies  
 Flowers: white  
 Blooms: May-June  
 In-row Spacing: 5-10 ft



Shrubby cinquefoil, D. Barton @ mt.gov

*Dasiphora fruticosa*, shrubby cinquefoil  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 2-4 ft  
 Growth Rate: slow  
 Growth Habit: upright  
 Wildlife Value: food and cover  
 Attracts: moths, bees, butterflies  
 Flowers: yellow  
 Blooms: May-June

In-row Spacing: 4-6 ft



Rubber rabbitbrush. USDI-BLM

*Ericameria and Chrysothamnus spp.*, rabbitbrush  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 2-6 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: open spreading  
 Wildlife Value: loafing, food and browse  
 Attracts: butterflies, small bees  
 Flowers: yellow  
 Bloom: August-October  
 In-row Spacing: 3-6 ft



Whorled buckwheat. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

*Eriogonum heracleoides*, whorled buckwheat  
 Origin: native sub-shrub  
 Mature Height: 1-3 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: spreading, open sub-shrub  
 Wildlife Value: cover, fall forage  
 Attracts: moths, butterflies, bees  
 Flowers: white, cream  
 Bloom: July-September



Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

In-row Spacing: 1-3 ft



Sulphurflower buckwheat. Derek Tilley, NRCS Idaho

***Eriogonum umbellatum***, sulphurflower buckwheat

Origin: native sub-shrub

Mature Height: 0.5-2 ft

Growth Rate: moderate

Growth Habit: spreading, open sub-shrub

Wildlife Value: cover, fall forage

Attracts: moths, butterflies, bees

Flowers: yellow

Bloom: July-September

In-row Spacing: 1-3 ft



Russian sage, G. Monroe @ PLANTS Database

***Perovskia atriplicifolia***, Russian sage

Origin: introduced half shrub

Mature Height: 1-3 ft

Growth Rate: rapid

Growth Habit: upright

Wildlife Value: good cover

Attracts: many bees

Flowers: purple

Bloom: June-July

In-row Spacing: 3-5 ft



©2007 Will Cook  
American plum. W. Cook @ Duke University

***Prunus americana***, American plum

Origin: native shrub

Mature Height: 8-10 ft

Growth Rate: moderate

Growth Habit: rounded crown, suckers

Wildlife Value: nesting, loafing, food, browse

Attracts: butterflies, bees

Flowers: white

Bloom: April-May

In-row Spacing: 6-10 ft

***Prunus pumila***, western sandcherry

Origin: native shrub

Mature Height: 3-6 ft

Growth Rate: moderate

Growth Habit: open and spreading

Wildlife Value: loafing, food, brose

Attracts: butterflies, bees

Flowers: white

Bloom: April-May

In-row Spacing: 3-6 ft



Chokecherry. Nevada Native Plant Society @ PLANTS Database

***Prunus virginiana***, chokecherry

Origin: native shrub

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

Mature Height: 12-25 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: oval to round; suckering  
 Wildlife Value: excellent food and cover  
 Attracts: bees, butterflies  
 Flowers: white  
 Bloom: April-May  
 In-row Spacing: 8-12 ft



Nanking cherry. D.E. Herman @ PLANTS Database

***Prunus tomentosa***, Nanking cherry  
 Origin: introduced shrub  
 Mature Height: 6-10 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: upright, semi-spreading  
 Wildlife Value: browse, fruit for song birds  
 Attracts: butterflies, bees  
 Flowers: small pink  
 Bloom: April-May  
 In-row Spacing: 6-8 ft



Antelope bitterbrush. G. Monroe @ PLANTS Database

***Purshia tridentata***,  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 2-6 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: upright shrub  
 Wildlife Value: cover, fall forage

Attracts: butterflies, bees  
 Flowers: yellow  
 Bloom: May-June  
 In-row Spacing: 3-5 ft



Skunkbush sumac. D.E. Herman @ PLANTS Database

***Rhus trilobata***, skunkbush sumac  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 6-8 ft  
 Growth Rate: slow to moderate  
 Growth Habit: ascending to spreading  
 Wildlife Value: browse, nesting, bird food  
 Attracts: early bees  
 Flowers: light yellow  
 Bloom: May-June  
 In-row Spacing: 4-6 ft



Golden currant. Cartina Kuvatoimisto

***Ribes aueum***, golden currant  
 Origin: native shrub  
 Mature Height: 5-8 ft  
 Growth Rate: moderate  
 Growth Habit: spreading and upright  
 Wildlife Value: roosting, loafing, nesting, fruit  
 Attracts: early spring bees, bumblebees  
 Flowers: fragrant golden yellow  
 Bloom: April-May  
 In-row Spacing: 4-6 ft



Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West



Wood's rose. Clint Shock @ OSU

***Rosa woodsii***, Wood's rose  
Origin: native shrub  
Mature Height: 3-6 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright to semi-weeping shrub  
Wildlife Value: nesting, cover, excellent food  
Attracts: bees  
Flowers: pink  
Bloom: June-July  
In-row Spacing: 3-5 ft



Elderberry. T. Bodner

***Sambucus cerulea***, elderberry  
Origin: native shrub  
Mature Height: 6-15 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: nesting, food  
Attracts: butterflies, nesting bees  
Flowers: white to cream  
Bloom: June-July  
In-row Spacing: 4-6 ft



Buffaloberry. R.A. Howard @ PLANTS Database

***Shepherdia argentea***, buffalo berry  
Origin: native shrub  
Mature Height: 6-20 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright to spreading tall shrub  
Wildlife Value: browse, fruit  
Attracts: butterflies, bees  
Flowers: male=yellow; female=inconspicuous  
Bloom: May-July  
In-row Spacing: 8-10 ft



Douglas spiraea, L. Koepke @ PLANTS Database

***Spiarea douglasii***, Douglas spiraea  
Origin: native shrub  
Mature Height: 4-6 ft  
Growth Rate: rapid  
Growth Habit: thicket forming to upright  
Wildlife Value: cover  
Attracts: butterflies, bees  
Flowers: rose to pink  
Bloom: June  
In-row Spacing: 2-4 ft

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West



Snowberry. R.A. Howard @ PLANTS Database

***Symphoricarpos* spp.**, snowberry

Origin: native shrub  
Mature Height: 2-4 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: open and spreading  
Wildlife Value: loafing, food, browse  
Attracts: butterflies, bees, hummingbirds  
Flowers: pink  
Bloom: June-August  
In-row Spacing: 3-4 ft

***Syringa vulgaris***, common lilac

Origin: introduced shrub  
Mature Height: 6-12 ft  
Growth Rate: moderate  
Growth Habit: upright, leggy, suckering  
Wildlife Value: nesting  
Attracts: early spring bees  
Flowers: white to purple

Bloom: April-May  
In-row Spacing: 5-10 ft



Yucca. OPSU

***Yucca* spp.**, yucca or soapweed

Origin: native shrub – Great Plains  
Mature Height: 2-4 ft  
Growth Rate: slow  
Growth Habit: upright  
Wildlife Value: cover  
Attracts: moths  
Flowers: creamy white  
Blooms: June-July  
In-row Spacing: 3 ft



## **APPROVED POLLINATOR PLANT LISTS**

The following tables 2 – 6 are lists of plants that have known value for pollinators and are adapted to various precipitation ranges in the Intermountain West. The lists are separated into 7–9”, 9– 12”, 12– 15”, 15– 18” and 18– 25” mean annual precipitation zones. Care was taken to list species that are commercially available. Additional species may be available or become available that were not considered for this technical note during publication. Consult your State Plant Materials Specialist prior to making any species substitutions.

This section also lists additional grasses and shrubs, which, although they do not provide pollen or nectar, are important elements of pollinator habitat, and should be included in pollinator or wildlife friendly plantings.


























Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 2: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 7 – 9 INCH PRECIPITATION													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Forbs</b>												
*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western yarrow	☼	☼		N	0 - 1/8	2,500,000	1	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Douglas' dustymaiden		☼		N	0 - 1/8	350,000	3	N/A		X	X
	<i>Cleome lutea</i>	Yellow bee flower	☼	☼		N	0 – 1/4	100,000	11	N/A	X	X	
*	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower	☼	☼	☼	N	1/4 - 1/2	200,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Helianthus species</i>	Sunflower		☼		N	1/4 - 1/2	45,000	4	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Hoary tansyaster		☼	☼	N	0 - 1/8	1,300,000	2	N/A		X	X
*^	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweetclover	☼	☼		I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X
*^	<i>M. officinalis</i>	Yellow sweetclover	☼	☼		I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Sphaeralcea</i> spp.	Globemallow	☼	☼		N	1/4 - 1/2	500,000	2	N/A		X	X
	<b>GRASSES</b>												
	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass				N	1/2 - 3	235,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Bottlebrush squirreltail				N	1/4 – 1/2	220,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>E. lanceolatus</i>	Thickspike wheatgrass				N	1/4 – 1/2	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
	<i>E. wawawaiensis</i>	Snake River wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 3/4	139,000	8	N/A		X	X
	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin wildrye				N	1/4 – 3/4	130,000	8	N/A		X	X
	<i>Poa secunda</i>	Sandberg bluegrass				N	0 – 1/4	1,000,000	2	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand dropseed				N	0 – 1/4	5,298,000	1	N/A			X

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 2 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 7 – 9 INCH PRECIPITATION												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Shrubs</b>												
<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. Wyomingensis</i>	Wyoming big sagebrush			●	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6	X	X	X
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing saltbush			●	N	1/4 - 3/4	52,000	2	6		X	X
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbitbrush			●	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	782,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush			●	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat		●		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	209,000	4	4		X	X
<i>Krascheninikovia lanata</i>	Winterfat			●	N	0 - 1/8	123,000	2	6		X	X
<i>Yucca</i> spp.	Yucca		●		N	1/4 – 1/2 or seedlings	25,000	43	6		X	X
*	Species that germinate and establish well. Several of these species should be included in every mix.											
^	Can become weedy or invasive under proper conditions.											

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 3: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 9 - 12 INCH PRECIPITATION													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Forbs</b>												
*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western yarrow				N	0 - 1/8	2,500,000	1	N/A		X	X
	<i>Astragalus filipes</i>	Basalt milkvetch				N	1/4 - 1/2	100,000	9	N/A		X	X
	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf balsamroot				N	0 - 1/4	55,000	18	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Douglas' dustymaiden				N	0 - 1/8	350,000	3	N/A		X	X
	<i>Cleome lutea</i>	Yellow bee plant				N	1/8 - 1/4	100,000	11	N/A	X	X	
*	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower				N	1/4 - 1/2	200,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Northern/Utah sweetvetch				N	1/4 - 1/2	46,000	24	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Helianthus species</i>	Sunflower				N	1/4 - 1/2	45,000	4	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Hoary tansyaster				N	0 - 1/8	1,300,000	2	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Medicago sativa ssp. falcata</i>	Yellow blossom alfalfa				I	1/8 - 1/2	211,000	10	N/A	X	X	
*^	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweetclover				I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X
*^	<i>M. officinalis</i>	Yellow sweetclover				I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	315,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>	Palmer's penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	294,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Phacelia hastata</i>	Silverleaf phacelia				N	1/8 - 1/4	150,000	7	N/A		X	X
	<i>Sphaeralcea spp.</i>	Globemallow				N	1/4 - 1/2	500,000	2	N/A		X	X
^	<i>Vicia Americana</i>	American vetch				N	1 - 2	33,000	33	N/A		X	X

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 3 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 9 - 12 INCH PRECIPITATION												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Grasses</b>												
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass				N	1/2 - 3	235,000	6	N/A		X	X
<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Bottlebrush squirreltail				N	1/4 - 1/2	220,000	6	N/A		X	X
<i>E. lanceolatus</i>	Thickspike wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
<i>E. trachycaulus</i>	Slender wheatgrass				N	1/2 - 3/4	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
<i>E. wawawaiensis</i>	Snake River wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	139,000	8	N/A		X	X
<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin wildrye				N	1/4 - 3/4	130,000	8	N/A		X	X
<i>Poa ampla</i>	Big bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
<i>P. nevadensis</i>	Nevada bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
<i>P. secunda</i>	Sandberg's bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	1,000,000	2	N/A	X	X	X
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	139,000	8	N/A	X	X	
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand dropseed				N	0 - 1/4	5,298,000	1	N/A			X
<i>Stipa thurberiana</i>	Thurber's needlegrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	180,000	4	N/A	X	X	

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West











TABLE 3continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 9 - 12 INCH PRECIPITATION												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Shrubs</b>												
<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i>	Basin big sagebrush			☀	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6		X	X
<i>A. tridentata ssp. wyomingensis</i>	Wyoming big sagebrush			☀	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6	X	X	X
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing saltbush			☀	N	1/4 - 3/4	52,000	2	6		X	X
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbitbrush			☀	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	782,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush			☀	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Whorled buckwheat		☀			0 - 1/4 or seedlings	135,700	4	4		X	X
<i>E. umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat		☀		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	209,000	4	4		X	X
<i>Krascheninikovia lanata</i>	Winterfat			☀	N	0 – 1/8	123,000	2	6			
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Antelope bitterbrush	☀			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	X
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunkbush sumac	☀				Seedlings	N/A	N/A	8			X
<i>Yucca spp.</i>	Yucca		☀		N	1/4 – 1/2	25,000	43	6		X	X
*	Species that germinate and establish well. Several of these species should be included in every mix.											
^	Can become weedy or invasive under proper conditions.											

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 4: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 12 - 15 INCH PRECIPITATION.													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Forbs</b>												
*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western yarrow	☼	☼		N	0 - 1/8	2,500,000	1	N/A		X	X
	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf balsamroot	☼			N	0 - 1/4	55,000	18	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Douglas dustymaiden		☼		N	0 - 1/8	350,000	3	N/A		X	X
	<i>Cleome lutea</i>	Yellow bee plant	☼			N	1/8 - 1/4	100,000	11	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Dalea</i> spp.	Prairie clover		☼		N	1/4 - 1/2	132,000	7	N/A		X	X
	<i>Echinacea</i> spp.	Prairie coneflower				N	1/8 - 1/2	115,000	10	N/A			
*	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket flower	☼	☼		N	1/4 - 1/2	200,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Northern/Utah sweetvetch	☼			N	1/4 - 1/2	46,000	24	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Helianthus species</i>	Sunflower		☼		N	1/4 - 1/2	45,000	4	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Lewis flax	☼			N	0 - 1/8	260,000	4	N/A		X	X
*	<i>L. perenne</i>	Blue flax	☼			I	0 - 1/8	278,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	Fernleaf biscuitroot	☼			N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>L. grayi</i>	Gray's biscuitroot	☼			N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>L. triternatum</i>	Nineleaf biscuitroot	☼			N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
*	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Hoary tansyaster		☼	☼	N	0 - 1/8	1,300,000	2	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	☼			I	1/8 - 1/2	200,000	10	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Medicago sativa</i> ssp. <i>falcata</i>	Yellow blossom alfalfa	☼			I	1/8 - 1/2	211,000	10	N/A	X	X	
*^	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweetclover	☼	☼		I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X
*^	<i>M. officinalis</i>	Yellow sweetclover	☼	☼		I	1/8 - 1/2	260,000	1	N/A	X	X	X

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 4 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 12 - 15 INCH PRECIPITATION.

























	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<i>Onobrychis vicifolia</i>	Sainfoin				I	1/4 - 3/4	18,500	34	N/A		X	X
	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	315,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>P. palmeri</i>	Palmer's penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	294,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Phacelia hastata</i>	Silverleaf phacelia				N	1/8 - 1/4	150,000	7	N/A		X	X
	<i>Sphaeralcea</i> spp.	Globemallow				N	1/4 - 1/2	500,000	2	N/A		X	X
^	<i>Vicia Americana</i>	American vetch				N	1 - 2	33,000	33	N/A		X	X
	<b>Grasses</b>												
	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass				N	1/2 - 3	235,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Bottlebrush squirreltail				N	1/4 - 1/2	220,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>E. lanceolatus</i>	Thickspike wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
	<i>E. multisetus</i>	Big squirreltail				N	1/4 - 1/2	192,000	6	N/A	X	X	
	<i>E. trachycaulus</i>	Slender wheatgrass				N	1/2 - 3/4	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
	<i>E. wawawaiensis</i>	Snake River wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	139,000	8	N/A		X	X
	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin wildrye				N	1/4 - 3/4	130,000	8	N/A		X	X
	<i>Poa ampla</i>	Big bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Poa nevadensis</i>	Nevada bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	139,000	8	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Stipa thurberiana</i>	Thurber's needlegrass				N	1/4 - 1/2	180,000	4	N/A	X	X	



Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 4 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 12 - 15 INCH PRECIPITATION.												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Shrubs</b>												
<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i>	Basin big sagebrush			☀	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6		X	X
<i>A. tridentata ssp. wyomingensis</i>	Wyoming big sagebrush			☀	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6	X	X	X
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian peashrub	☀			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	X
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbitbrush			☀	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	782,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Clematis		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6	X	X	X
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush			☀	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Whorled buckwheat		☼		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	135,700	4	4		X	X
<i>E. umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat		☀		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	209,000	4	4		X	X
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American plum	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Antelope bitterbrush	☀			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	X
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunkbush sumac	☀			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	8			X
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden currant	☀			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Wood's rose		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	5		X	
<i>Symphoricarpos spp.</i>	Snowberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	4		X	
*	Species that germinate and establish well. Several of these species should be included in every mix.											
^	Can become weedy or invasive under proper conditions.											

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 5: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 15 - 18 INCH PRECIPITATION.													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Forbs</b>												
*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western yarrow				N	0 - 1/8	2,500,000	1	N/A		X	X
	<i>Astragalus cicer</i>	Cicer milkvetch				I	1/4 - 1/2	130,000	7	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Dalea spp.</i>	Prairie clover				N	1/4 - 1/2	132,000	7	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket flower				N	1/4 - 1/2	200,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky geranium				N	1/4 - 1/2	55,000	20	N/A		X	
	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Northern/Utah sweetvetch				N	1/4 - 1/2	46,000	24	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Lewis flax				N	0 - 1/8	260,000	4	N/A		X	X
*	<i>L. perenne</i>	Blue flax				I	0 - 1/8	278,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	Fernleaf biscuitroot				N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>L. grayi</i>	Gray's biscuitroot				N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>L. triternatum</i>	Nineleaf biscuitroot				N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
*	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa				I	1/8 - 1/2	200,000	10	N/A	X	X	
*	<i>M. sativa ssp. falcata</i>	Yellow blossom alfalfa				I	1/8 - 1/2	211,000	10	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin				I	1/4 - 3/4	18,500	34	N/A		X	X
	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	315,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>P. strictus</i>	Rocky Mountain penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	286,000	4	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie coneflower				N	1/4 - 1/2	740,000	3	N/A	X	X	X
	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Small burnet				I	1/4 - 1/2	42,000	20	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Symphotrichum spp.</i>	Aster spp.				N	0 - 1/2	1,290,000		N/A			
^	<i>Vicia Americana</i>	American vetch				N	1 - 2	33,000	33	N/A		X	X


























Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 5 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 15 - 18 INCH PRECIPITATION.												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Grasses</b>												
<i>Bromus marginatus</i>	Mountain brome				N	1/4 – 1/2	80,000	10	N/A	X	X	X
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue wildrye				N	1/4 – 1/2	145,000	8	N/A	X	X	
<i>E. multisetus</i>	Big squirreltail				N	1/4 – 1/2	192,000	6	N/A	X	X	
<i>E. trachycaulus</i>	Slender wheatgrass				N	1/2 – 3/4	135,000	6	N/A	X	X	
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue				N	1/4 – 1/2	450,000	4	N/A	X	X	
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie junegrass				N	1/4 – 1/2	2,135,000	1	N/A		X	X
<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin wildrye				N	1/4 - 3/4	130,000	8	N/A		X	X
<i>Poa ampla</i>	Big bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
<i>Poa nevadensis</i>	Nevada bluegrass				N	0 - 1/4	925,000	2	N/A	X	X	
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass				N	1/4 – 1/2	139,000	8	N/A	X	X	

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 5 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 15 - 18 INCH PRECIPITATION.													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Shrubs</b>												
	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vasaseyana</i>	Mountain big sagebrush			☼	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6		X	X
	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian peashrub	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	X
	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Clematis		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6	X	X	X
	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	
	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush			☼	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
	<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Whorled buckwheat			☼	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat		☼		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	135,700	4	4		X	X
	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian sage		☼	☼	I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	
	<i>Prunus americana</i>	American plum	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	12		X	
	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunkbush sumac	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	8			X
	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden currant	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	
	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Wood's rose		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	5		X	
	<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Elderberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6			X
	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Buffaloberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.	Snowberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	4		X	
	<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	Nanking cherry	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	8		X	
*	Species that germinate and establish well. Several of these species should be included in every mix.												
^	Can become weedy or invasive under proper conditions.												

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 6: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 18 - 25 INCH PRECIPITATION.													
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
			spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
	<b>Forbs</b>												
*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western yarrow				N	0 - 1/8	2,500,000	1	N/A		X	X
	<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	Columbine				I	0 - 1/8	180,000	6	N/A		X	
	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly milkweed				N	1/8 - 1/2	70,000	15	N/A		X	X
	<i>Astragalus cicer</i>	Cicer milkvetch				I	1/4 - 1/2	130,000	7	N/A	X	X	
^	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crownvetch				I	1/4 - 1/2	140,000	8	N/A		X	X
*	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket flower				N	1/4 - 1/2	200,000	6	N/A		X	X
	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky geranium				N	1/4 - 1/2	55,000	20	N/A		X	
	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie blazingstar				N	0 - 1/8	120,000	9	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Lewis flax				N	0 - 1/8	260,000	4	N/A		X	X
*	<i>L. perenne</i>	Blue flax				I	0 - 1/8	278,000	4	N/A		X	X
	<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	Fernleaf biscuitroot				N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>L. triternatum</i>	Nineleaf biscuitroot				N	1/8 - 1/2	45,000	24	N/A		X	
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil				I	1/4 - 1/2	375,000	3	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa				I	1/8 - 1/2	200,000	10	N/A	X	X	
*	<i>M. sativa ssp. falcata</i>	Yellow blossom alfalfa				I	1/8 - 1/2	211,000	10	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin				I	1/4 - 3/4	18,500	34	N/A		X	X
	<i>P. strictus</i>	Rocky Mountain penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	286,000	4	N/A	X	X	
	<i>P. venustus</i>	Venus penstemon				N	0 - 1/8	1,090,000	2	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie coneflower				N	1/4 - 1/2	740,000	3	N/A	X	X	X
*	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Small burnet				I	1/4 - 1/2	42,000	20	N/A	X	X	
	<i>Symphotrichum</i> spp.	Aster spp.				N	0 - 1/2	1,290,000	2	N/A		X	X
*^	<i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Clover spp.				I	1/8 - 1/4	300,000	4	N/A	X	X	X
^	<i>Vicia Americana</i>	American vetch				N	1 - 2	33,000	33	N/A		X	X

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 6 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 18 - 25 INCH PRECIPITATION.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<b>Grasses</b>												
<i>Bromus marginatus</i>	Mountain brome				N	1/4 – 1/2	80,000	10	N/A	X	X	X
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue wildrye				N	1/4 – 1/2	145,000	8	N/A	X	X	
<i>E. multisetus</i>	Big squirreltail				N	1/4 – 1/2	192,000	6	N/A	X	X	
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue				N	1/4 – 1/2	450,000	4	N/A	X	X	
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie junegrass				N	1/4 – 1/2	2,135,000	1	N/A		X	X
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass				N	1/4 – 1/2	139,000	8	N/A	X	X	
<b>Shrubs</b>												
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vasaseyana</i>	Mountain big sagebrush			☼	N	0 – 1/8	1,700,000	0.5	6		X	X
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian peashrub	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	X
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Clematis		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6	X	X	X
<i>Cotoneaster integerrimus</i>	Cotoneaster	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10	X	X	
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil	☼	☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6		X	
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Whorled buckwheat			☼	N	0 - 1/8 or seedlings	693,000	0.25	4		X	X
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat		☼		N	0 - 1/4 or seedlings	135,700	4	4		X	X
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American plum	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	Nanking cherry	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	8		X	

Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West

TABLE 6 continued: POLLINATOR PLANT LIST 18 - 25 INCH PRECIPITATION.												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Color and Time			Origin N = native, I = introduced	Seeding Depth (in)	Seeds/lb	Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	Plant Spacing (ft)	Soils		
		spring	summer	late summer						fine	med	coarse
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	☼			N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	12		X	
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Wood's rose		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	5		X	
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willow	☼	☼		N	Cuttings	N/A	N/A	8		X	X
<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Elderberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	6			X
<i>Spirea douglasii</i>	Douglas spirea		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	4		X	
<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.	Snowberry		☼		N	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	4		X	
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common lilac	☼			I	Seedlings	N/A	N/A	10		X	
*	Species that germinate and establish well. Several of these species should be included in every mix.											
^	Can become weedy or invasive under proper conditions.											

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