



## Lawns to Legumes Pollinator Pathways Fact Sheet for Landowners

The Lawns to Legumes program aims to build awareness and create habitat for at-risk pollinator species including the monarch butterfly and the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee.

The following project types are eligible for reimbursement:

- **Pocket Plantings** are small native gardens that pack a punch in terms of pollinator impact without taking up much space. They are a great way to get started if you are new to gardening, or want to expand your existing garden. Choose species that bloom in all three growing seasons (spring, summer, and fall) for the biggest impact. Variations of a pocket planting include rain gardens and shoreline plantings.
- **Flowering native trees or shrubs** can provide as much pollinator forage as an entire garden. Early bloomers like willow provide high quality pollen for emerging bumble bees when few other resources are available.
- **Pollinator Lawns** with low-growing fescues and flowering species offer less support for pollinators compared to a small garden or tree planting. However, they offer a realistic option if you frequently use your yard for activities like recreation and are still a better choice for pollinators than a typical turf grass lawn. If incorporating a pollinator lawn in your yard, we strongly encourage prioritizing native species over non-natives when possible.
- **Pollinator Meadows**, expansive areas with a diversity of native plant species, are the most beneficial choice for supporting as many pollinators as possible. If you have the time and space to create a pollinator meadow, go for it! The easiest way to achieve this might be to plant pocket gardens side by side, eventually creating a meadow that takes up your full yard.

**Project mentors** will be available to provide guidance on garden design and maintenance.

**Projects selected for funding** will receive reimbursement of up to \$500 for MN native plant materials and eligible expenses described below. Landowners are required to cover 25% of project expenses through cash match or in-kind labor valued at \$25/hour.

**Eligible expenses** include the following:

1. **MN Native Plants and Seeds** include insecticide/neonicotinoid free flowers/forbs, bare root plants, grasses and sedges, trees and shrubs, and seeds. Projects should have at least three blooming plants

species during spring, summer and fall with higher diversity strongly encouraged. Source native plants and seeds within 175 miles of the project location.

2. Project expenses including biodegradable weed suppression mulch (non-dyed preferred), compost, fencing or other herbivore prevention materials, signage, and equipment rental fees cannot exceed 50% of your total reimbursement.

Your pollinator habitat project must be maintained for a **minimum of 5 years**. Watering plants weekly and weeding is necessary for the first growing season. A maintenance guide will be provided to landowners in the contract.

To request an application, contact Jordi Johnson at [Jordi.Johnson@anokaswcd.org](mailto:Jordi.Johnson@anokaswcd.org) or 763-434-2030 ext. 180