



# Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form for Established Plantings (after year 3)

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



### 1. PERCENT OF SITE DOMINATED BY WILDFLOWERS

- 1-15 % +10 points
- 16-30 % +15 points
- 31-45 % +20 points
- 46-60 % +25 points
- 61+ % +30 points

Total points

Note: Project may have "array" mixes and diverse border mixes; forb dominance should be averaged across the entire site. Forb dominance should exclude native ragweeds.

### 2. % OF SITE DOMINATED BY NATIVE SPECIES COVER

- 1-25% +5 points
- 26-50% +10 points
- 51-75% +15 points
- 76-100% +20 points

Total points

### 3. COVER DIVERSITY (# of plant species with >1% cover)

- 1-9 species +5 points
- 10-19 species +10 points
- 20-25 species +15 points
- 26 or more species +20 points

Total points

Exclude invasives from species totals.

### 4. 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](#) for Information about bloom season

### 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

Total points

### 6. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS ON-SITE (check/add all that apply)

- At least 2% milkweed cover
- Detailed mgmt. plan developed +5 points  
(see [example plan](#)) 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
- Constructed nesting habitat feature/s (bee blocks, etc.) +5 points

Total points

### 7. INSECTICIDE RISK

- Planned on-site insecticide use. (excluding buildings/electrical boxes, etc.) -25 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms, project plans, seed mixes and any communication with agricultural coops or other pesticide applicators to [dan.shaw@state.mn.us](mailto:dan.shaw@state.mn.us) or local government staff.

Note: Measurements of percent "cover" should be based on "absolute cover" defined as the percent of the ground surface that is covered by a vertical projection of foliage as viewed from above. To measure cover diversity it is recommended to use plots, and/or transects in addition to meander searches for accurate measurements. Wildflowers in question 1 refer to "forbs" which are flowering plants that are not woody, and not graminoids (grasses, sedges, rushes) and can include introduced clovers and other non-native species beneficial to pollinators.