

Designing and Installing an Agricultural Hedgerow to Restore Native Pollinator Habitat

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Background

Approximately 75% of fruits, nuts, and vegetables grown in commercial agriculture require pollination.¹ Managed honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are generally used for this purpose, but native bees have demonstrated an ability to meet agricultural pollination requirements just as effectively.² Use of agricultural hedgerows has been shown to increase diversity and abundance of native bees, with pollinators showing particular preference for native species over exotics.³



Native species beginning to leaf out 10 weeks after hedgerow planting



Volunteers helping plant hedgerow species

Objectives

- ♦ Assess current pollinator abundance & diversity at UW Farm
- ♦ Plant pollinator habitat: a woody hedgerow adjacent to the farm composed of native Pacific Northwest shrub and tree species
- ♦ Create stewardship protocol for habitat maintenance and future pollinator monitoring

Works Cited

¹Klein AM et al. 2007. Importance of pollinators in changing landscapes for world crops. Proc Roy Soc B. 274:203-213.

²Winfrey R et al. 2007. Native bees provide insurance against ongoing honey bee losses. Ecol Lett. 10:1105-1113.

³Morandin L, Kremen C. 2013. Bee preference for native versus exotic plants in restored agricultural hedgerows. Restor Ecol. 21(1):26-32.