

Planting Pollinator Habitats at the UW Farm - Center for Urban Horticulture

Nicolette Levi, University of Washington, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Background

Approximately one third of food produced globally is dependent on pollination. Managed honeybees are generally used for this purpose, but native bees have demonstrated the ability to meet agricultural pollination requirements just as effectively. 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 (Morandin and Kremen 2013).



Lupinus polyphyllus ©Jouko Lehmuskallio



Lonicera ciliosa © Jay Thompson



Eriophyllum lanatum with native bee
© Paul Slichter

Objectives

- ◆ Assess current pollinator abundance & diversity at UW Farm
- ◆ Plant pollinator habitat: herbaceous wildflower gardens and a woody hedgerow adjacent to the farm, using native Pacific Northwest species
- ◆ Create stewardship protocol for habitat maintenance and future pollinator monitoring

Works Cited

Morandin L., Kremen C. 2013. Bee Preference for Native versus Exotic Plants in Restored Agricultural Hedgerows. *Restoration Ecology*. 21(1):26-32.