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. 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. 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.

Volunteers helping plant hedgerow species

Works Cited


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

Native species beginning to leaf out 10 weeks after hedgerow planting