

Michigan Pollinator Habitat Planning Scorecard for Solar Sites

This form was developed by the MSU Department of Entomology to guide vegetation management at solar installations to make them more supportive for native pollinators. Check the boxes and add up the points to determine whether the plans meet or exceed the minimum requirements. For more local information on pollinators and habitat: www.pollinators.msu.edu

PROJECT DETAILS

Solar developer: _____

Vegetation consultant: _____

Project location: _____

Project size (acres): _____

SITE SCORES

1. SITE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
 - Detailed plant establishment and vegetation management plan developed +10 pts
 - Site plan developed with a vegetation management company + 5 pts
 - Signage legible at forty or more feet stating pollinator friendly solar habitat +3 pts
2. HABITAT SITE PREPARATION PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION
 - Measures taken to control weeds during season prior to seeding +10 pts
 - No weed control -20 pts
3. INSECTICIDE RISK
 - Planned on-site use of insecticide or pre-planting seed/plant treatment (excluding buildings/electrical boxes, etc) -40 pts
 - Communication with local chemical applicators and site registered on <https://mi.driftwatch.org/map> +20 pts
4. AVAILABLE HABITAT COMPONENTS WITHIN 0.25 MILES (check/add all that apply)
 - Native bunch grass for bee nesting +1 pt
 - Open sandy soil areas for bee nesting +1 pt
 - Trees/shrubs for bee nesting +1 pt
 - Clean, perennial water sources +1 pt

FLOWERING PLANT SCORES

5. FLOWERING PLANT SPECIES SEEDED IN PERIMETER AREA (species with more than 1% cover)
 - 5-10 species +1 pts
 - 10-15 species +3 pts
 - 16-20 species +8 pts
 - >20 species +10 pts

Exclude invasive plant species from total

6. PLANT DIVERSITY UNDER SOLAR ARRAY*
 - Grass only +2 pts
 - Clover/grass mix +8 pts
 - Low-growing wildflower mix +10 pts
7. PERCENT OF SITE PLANNED TO BE DOMINATED BY WILDFLOWERS**
 - 0 - 25% 0 pts
 - 26- 50 % +3 pts
 - 51-75 % +8 pts
 - More than 75% +15 pts

Projects may have different species mixes under the solar array panels and in the perimeter. Flower cover should be averaged across the entire site.

8. SEEDS USED FOR WILDFLOWER AREAS
 - Mixes are seeded using at least 40 seeds/square foot +5 pts
 - All wildflower seeds are from a source within 150 miles of the site +5 pts
9. SEASONS WITH AT LEAST THREE BLOOMING FORB SPECIES PRESENT (check all that apply)
 - Spring (April-May) +5 pts
 - Summer (June-August) +5 pts
 - Fall (September-October) +5 pts

* For seeding in the panel array, these can be a short-stature wildflower mix or clovers and other non-native species beneficial to pollinators. If clovers are used, these should be seeded in locations separate from the native wildflowers in the perimeter locations.

** Wildflowers in Question 7 refer to forbs which are flowering plants that are not woody, and are not grasses, sedges, etc. Measurements of percent cover should be based on the percent of the ground surface covered by foliage as viewed from above.

Refer to www.nativeplants.msu.edu or a local native wildflower supplier for advice on plants that are attractive to pollinators and will work in various Michigan settings.

For more on pollinator habitat: www.pollinators.msu.edu

Total points:

- Provides exceptional habitat** **90+ points**
- Meets pollinator standards** **76 – 89 points**
- Does not meet standards** **below 75 points**

