

Designing On-farm Tree Planting Programs for Pollinators



Eucalyptus flowers
Photo – David Barnes NSW DPI

Stands of remnant vegetation provide important habitat for collections of plant pollinators like native bees and other beneficial insects.

- Retain native vegetation adjacent to cropping areas.
- High plant diversity is important for pollinator nutrition and health.
- Choose plants that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the breeding season.
- As a general rule, allow a minimum of three plant species that bloom at any given time during the growing season; spring, summer, and autumn.
- Encourage combinations of annuals and perennials.
- Select a wide variety of wildflowers and shrubs, a variety of flower colours and shapes to attract different pollinators.
- Encourage plants in clumps, rather than single plants, to attract more pollinators.
- Provide floral diversity as strips every few crop rows or as mixtures in field margins.
- Whenever possible, choose native plants. Native plants will attract more native pollinators and can serve as homes for some species.
- Native bees don't fly long distances. Create floral corridors between flowering resources to encourage bee populations to spread throughout farming land.
- Maintain pesticide-free buffers around paddock edges and near pollinator habitat.

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