HIGH QUALITY HABITAT ESTABLISHMENT

Crop Field Conversions

STEP 1: PLANNING AND SITE PREPARATION
STEP 2: SEEDING TIMING AND METHODS
STEP 3: MANAGEMENT

Step 1: Planning and Site Preparation

What is currently growing on the site?

- Most new seedings occur on harvested row crop fields (harvested corn or soybeans)
- Fall dormant seedings and winter broadcast seedings do not need herbicide applications
- Late spring seedings may need an application of straight glyphosate IF annual weeds / grasses start greening up before conducting the seeding

Site preparation for harvested soybean field?

- Once field is harvested, it is ready for the seeding
- A harvested bean field is the perfect site preparation for a pollinator seeding
- DO NOT WORK, DISK, TILL, OR TOUCH A HARVESTED BEAN FIELD

Site preparation for harvested corn field?

- Once field is harvested, the crop residue (excess stalk litter) must be removed for seeding
    - Residue can be removed by prescribed burning or baling the stalks
    - If burning or baling isn't an option, ground must be lightly worked in fall
        - Chisel once, then disk once
        - Need at least 50% bare ground for seeding

Step 2: Seeding Timing and Methods

Best timing for planting pollinator seed mixes?
November 15 – Ground Freeze (early December)

- Use a No-till Native Seed Drill (Truax or Great Plains) for fall dormant seedings
    - Use filler / carrier (rice hulls, cracked corn, oats); filler should be mixed with the large fluffy seed. Do not mix filler with the small seed
        - Large seed goes in the middle box on the drill
        - Small seed goes in the forb box on the drill
        - Set drill to most reduced settings
        - Set drill to shallowest depth settings – you should be able to see some seed on top of the ground during seeding