



Ernst Pollinator Service

*A Division Of Meadville Land Service, Inc.
Mobile Restoration Company*

Robin Ernst: President

Randi Grout: Project Manager

Lindsey White: Director of Development

Vegetation Projects



Solar Farms



Capped Landfills



Meadow Restoration



Federal Land



Conservation Land



Rights of Ways



Stream & Wetland Mitigation



Relationship to Ernst Seed

With our close relationship to Ernst Seeds, Ernst Pollinator Service has knowledge and access to a multitude of specialty seed mix to fit any application

The Fuzz & Buzz™ seed mix was developed to address the unique nutritional needs of sheep, while providing a low-growing pollinator habitat, easily maintained and sustainable vegetation solution for solar installations.

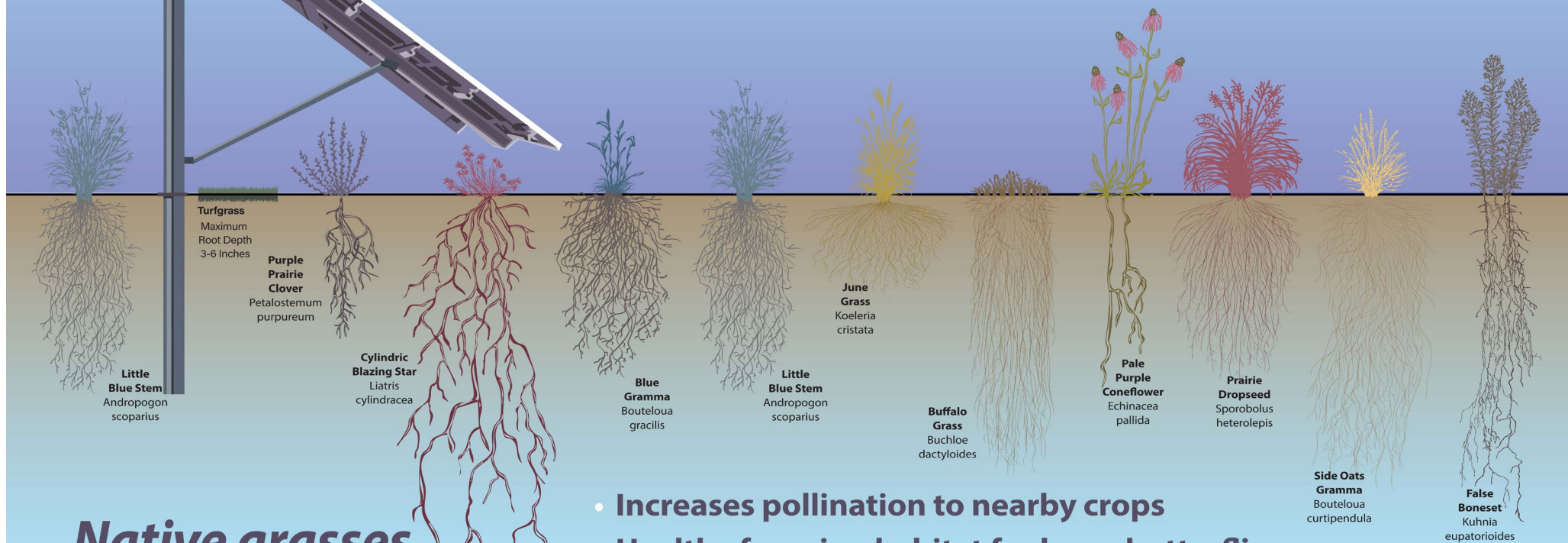


Why Choose Native Vegetation for Pollinators In Your Solar Site

- Giving Back to the Land, Local Farms & Our Food Source
- Greater Community Reception to Development
- Soil Stabilization & Reduced Storm Water Run-Off
- Beautification of Site
- Lower Maintenance Costs Long term

Pollinator Habitat & Solar Arrays

A winning combination



**Native grasses
and wildflowers
provide many
benefits:**

- Increases pollination to nearby crops
- Healthy foraging habitat for bees, butterflies
- Superior on-site water management
- Reduces soil erosion
- Less maintenance, less mowing
- Builds healthy topsoil for future land uses
- Greater resistance to weeds
- Increases soil organic matter



Cover Crop

Cover Crop used
prior to permeant
installation of seed

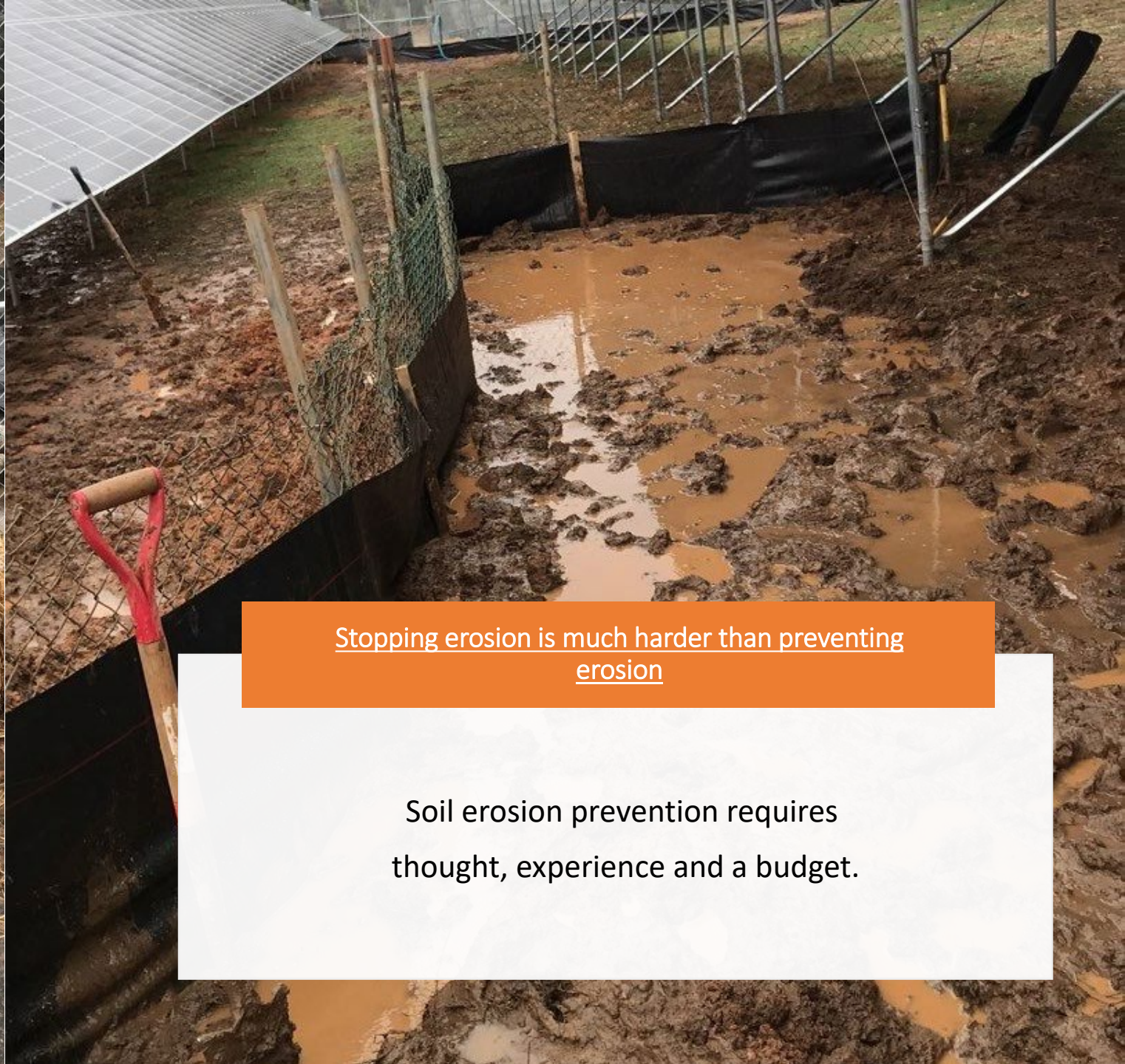
Grain Oats: January- May

German Millet: May- September

Grain Rye: September- April

Grain Rye can be planted year-round on
most sites






Stopping erosion is much harder than preventing erosion

Soil erosion prevention requires thought, experience and a budget.

Permeant Seed Mixes Factors

- Panel Heights
- Soil Conditions
- Score Card
- Seed Availability
- Native/ Pollinator Friendly

Pollinator-friendly Solar Site Mixes



ERNST SEEDS

A selection of native seed mixes to
Provide Habitat & Forage
For Pollinators On Solar Sites

8884 Mercer Pike • Meadville, PA 16335
ernstseed.com • sales@ernstseed.com
800-873-3321 • 814-336-5191 (fax)



- No-Till Drills are designed to cut the soil and directly install the seed in the ground.
- Drill used to plant warm season grasses and Forbs, must be capable of placing seed 1/4"-1/2" deep into a firm seedbed

Drill Seeding

used to achieve good seed to soil contact

Hurdles to vegetation

- Height limits on the solar panels

The lower the panels the less diversity, also the more expensive seed mixes can be.

- Existing soil conditions and vegetations
- Last minute seed purchasing
- Patience and understanding blooming periods don't happen over night.

Takes up to three years for full maturity and proper maintenance to reach full establishment.







Pollinator Scorecards gives the developer a guide to follow.

EPS takes the project goal and scorecard into consideration to achieve the highest outcome and use the full potential of the ground.

VIRGINIA POLLINATOR-SMART/ BIRD HABITAT SCORECARD Proposed or Retrofit Solar Sites



A successful Pollinator-Smart habitat will provide benefits to the environment and the solar site owner/operator in a number of key areas, including:

1. Pollinator services,
2. Biodiversity and habitat enhancement,
3. Carbon sequestration,
4. Erosion and sediment control, and,
5. Reduced vegetation maintenance over time.

The Virginia Solar Site Pollinator/Bird Habitat Scorecard is used to establish target conditions and/or evaluate the effectiveness of Pollinator-Smart measures once implemented. If the score thresholds are met, a site is deemed Pollinator-Smart provided the activities described herein are implemented **over at least 10% of the project area.**

DEFINITIONS

Open Area: Any area beyond the panel zone, within the property boundary.

Panel Zone: The area underneath the solar arrays, including inter-row spacing.

Project Area: Open Area + Panel Zone + Screening Zone.

Screening Zone: A vegetated visual barrier.

Solar Native Plant Finder: The Virginia Solar Site Native Plant Finder ([link](#)), an online research tool developed by the DCR Natural Heritage Program.

Virginia Pollinator-Smart Seed Mix: A seed mix that includes native local ecotypes and conforms with the Solar Native Plant Finder.

RESOURCES

- [Virginia Solar Site Native Plant Finder](#)
- [Virginia's Pollinator-Smart Solar Portal](#)
- [Comprehensive Manual](#)
- [Monitoring Plan](#)

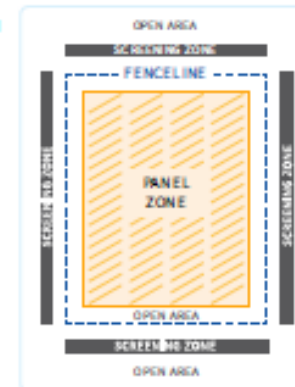
INSTRUCTIONS

For detailed instructions on how to implement the scorecard, please refer to the [Comprehensive Manual](#).

1. All questions and fields must be filled out.
2. Submit your scorecard and associated documents via email to: pollinator_smart@dcr.virginia.gov
3. A Proposed or Retrofit Solar Site Scorecard should be submitted during the initial planting year. To remain certified, an Established Sites Scorecard should be submitted in years 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. A long-term management plan should also be submitted with the Established Sites Scorecard during year 10. If all criteria are met during year 10, the site will be considered pollinator-friendly for the life of the project.

ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED

- Project Vicinity Map/Planting Plan
- Seed Mix and Seeding Rates
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Vegetation Monitoring Plan
- Invasive Species Mapping
- Research Collaboration Documentation
- Site Photos



PROJECT DETAILS & CONTACT INFORMATION

DATE:

SITE OWNER OR DESIGNEE:

PROJECT ADDRESS:

PROJECT SIZE (ACS AND MW):

POINT OF CONTACT:

EMAIL/PHONE:

VEGETATION CONSULTANT:

SEED SUPPLIER (IF KNOWN):

TARGET SEEDING DATE:

FINAL SCORE

Certified VA Pollinator-Smart: 80-99 pts

Gold Certified VA Pollinator-Smart: 100+ pts

[CLEAR FORM](#)

Contact Ernst Pollinator Service

17693 State Highway 285,
Cochranton, PA 16314

814-337-1974

Robin@meadvillelandservice.com

Randi@meadvillelandservice.com

Lindsey@meadvillelandservice.com

