

Xerces 2026 Mid-Atlantic Habitat Kit: Project Proposal Form

WHY HABITAT KITS?

One of the best ways to help declining pollinators and other wildlife is to restore safe habitat for them. We carefully select native and regionally appropriate plant material, and are thrilled to be able to provide plants to the community groups selected as Project Partners. The cost of the Habitat Kits is covered by The Xerces Society, as part of our work to help reduce barriers to native, perennial plant material that is crucial for beneficial insects and our beloved pollinators.

PRIORITY REGION: In 2026, Priority areas are NYC, Philly and surrounding areas in NJ, NY, and PA.

ELIGIBILITY: Kits are designed for "shovel-ready" projects. Many of the kits are designed for urban farms, community gardens, and other shared and educational spaces in cities. The remainder of the kits are appropriate for larger sites, and could include, but are not limited to, working lands, farms, restoration projects, tribal lands, public lands, parks, schools, and other educational sites. Kits are NOT for residential use / private homes.

PROJECT PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES: Kits must be planted within two weeks of receiving the plants, and participants must complete a Planting Notification Form at this time. Project partners are responsible for watering, weeding, and protecting the habitats. Kits must be protected from pesticides. A complete Final Report Form is required in fall 2026.

PLANT SOURCE: Pinelands Nursery & Supply, at 323 Island Road, Columbus, NJ. We are thrilled to partner with Pinelands for the fourth year in a row to provide high-quality native plants for the Habitat Kits. Pick-up day is festive and fun at the nursery, and we love to see all partners who can come for pickup. We ask that those who are able opt for pickup, which saves our limited grant funding to ship to those who are unable to drive down.

TIMING: We hope kits will be ready by mid-May, depending on the nursery supply chain and production ability. Project partners should be prepared to be flexible through June in case of delays. Xerces staff will provide regular updates and will coordinate pick-up dates and times.

FORM DEADLINE & INFORMATION:

Please complete and submit this form by the end of the day on Monday, Feb 17th, 2026. Please review the following resource before filling out this form:

[Habitat Kit webpage and FAQ.](#)

Project proposals that detail comprehensive and clear steps in habitat preparation, plant establishment, and ongoing management will receive a higher ranking in our evaluation process.

[This project proposal form has 7 sections:](#)

1. Contact Info
2. General Site Info
3. Kit Types and Descriptions
4. Specific Habitat Project Plan
5. Pesticide Protection
6. Outreach, Education, Community Science
7. Final Program Logistics

We estimate it will take approximately **30–45 minutes** to complete. Please contact us if you need assistance or accommodations to complete the form.

NOTIFICATION: We will carefully read, rank, select, and notify selected Project Partners by mid-March 2026.

QUESTIONS? Contact eastregion.pollinators@xerces.org.

SECTION 1 of 7: Contact information

The first set of questions are about the organization/agency and the contact person who is applying for kits.

2. Priority regions are being offered in the following locations. Select or describe your

other nearby region. *

Mark only one oval.

New York City

Philadelphia

New Jersey

Other:

3. Full name of primary contact: *
4. Preferred email for communication about your kit: *
5. Preferred phone number: *
6. Backup contact name, email, and phone number: *
7. Which of these describe your affiliation? Select all that apply. * *Check all that apply.*
- Community garden
 - Urban farm
 - Public school or university
 - NGO / non profit
 - Other community organization
 - Conservation district
 - Wildlife preserve, land trust, etc.

Tribal lands

Bee City affiliate

Bee Campus affiliate

Other:

8. Name of your affiliation (org, community group, park, garden, school, tribe, etc.)

9. Have you worked with Xerces in the past? If yes, which Xerces staff have you

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worked with? Please describe.

10. Would you like to receive occasional emails regarding local pollinator conservation opportunities? *Please follow [this link](#) if you would like to join the Xerces Society primary email list to receive our e-newsletter.*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

11. In the past eighteen months, have you or any owner of the property received any

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financial or technical assistance from a federal agency for that property?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other:

12. If yes, which federal agency provided that assistance? (*Type "NA" if not*

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applicable)

13. If yes, was the federal assistance related to any portion of the specific project

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area described in this project proposal? (*Type "NA" if not applicable*)

SECTION 2 OF 7: General Site Information

The next set of questions are about the location where the kit will be planted. The questions in this section refer to the property as a whole, such as the farm, park, wildlife preserve, community space, etc that is owned or managed by the applicant's project partners.

14. Please choose a simple project name (e.g., "Southside Neighborhood Community

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Garden" or "Bumblebee Urban Farm") to uniquely ID your project. We will use this for the duration of the 2026 HK Program.

15. Project address or coordinates (physical location where kit will be planted). *

Include street address, town or city, state, and ZIP.

Alternatively, you can include the lat., long. coordinates for your project location using Google Maps.

16. What county is your planting project in? *

SECTION 3 OF 7: Kit Types and Descriptions

We are able to offer four different kit types this year. See plant lists on [webpage](#).

Kit #1 - Small Dry Sites

- Species in this kit are adapted to dry-average well-drained soils, full to part sun, and once established should be relatively drought tolerant.
- Small Dry Kit contains 500 herbaceous plugs. It is intended to cover 500 square feet at 1ft spacing or ~1,125 - 2,000 square feet at 1.5ft - 2ft spacing.
- 2 shrub seedlings are available for partners picking up in person.

Kit #2 - Large Upland Sites

- Species in this kit are adapted to dry-average well-drained soils, full to part sun, and once established should be relatively drought tolerant.
- Large Upland Kit contains 1000 herbaceous plugs. It is intended to cover 1,000 square feet at 1ft spacing or ~2,250 - 4,000 square feet at 1.5ft - 2ft spacing.
- 4 shrub seedlings are available for partners picking up in person.

Kit #3 - Sandy Soil Sites

- Species in this kit are adapted to dry, acidic, sandy soils, full to part sun, e.g. including some barrens and coastal sites. Once established should be relatively drought tolerant.
- Small Sandy / Barrens Kit contains 500 herbaceous plugs. It is intended to cover 500 square feet at 1ft spacing or ~1,125 - 2,000 square feet at 1.5ft - 2ft spacing.
- 2 shrub seedlings are available for partners picking up in person.

Kit #4 - Moist Soil Sites

- Species in this kit are adapted to average or wetter soils, full-part sun, and can tolerate seasonal or occasional inundation as well as periods of dryness (e.g. rain garden).
- Moist / Rain Garden Kit contains 700 herbaceous plugs. It is intended to cover 700 square feet at 1ft spacing or ~1,575 - 2,800 square feet at 1.5ft - 2ft spacing.
- 2 shrub seedlings are available for partners picking up in person.

Important notes

- This year, we will be offering shrubs to the partners who are able to pickup their kits in person. We apologize that we are unable to ship shrubs to those partners who are unable to come to the nursery for in-person pickups.
- You may not request a half-kit, although we may consider well-thought-out proposals to share a kit; please contact us if you would like to discuss and propose this option.
- Plant spacing can be adjusted to fit the configuration of your site and/or when kits are used to supplement existing habitats/plant communities, however, you must have at least 1 square foot per plant plug available for planting.

17. Which type of kit are you interested in? (see above for description of kit types) * *Check all that apply.*

SECTION 4 OF 7: Specific Habitat Project Plan

This set of questions asks you to describe how the kits will be used and how the habitat will be implemented. The questions in this section refer to the specific habitat project area where the kits will be used within the larger property.

Project proposals that detail comprehensive and clear steps in habitat preparation, plant establishment, and on-going management will receive a higher ranking in our evaluation process.

18. Total size of the ENTIRE property (acres). *

19. Describe where on the property the kit(s) will be planted and how the kit will be used. *

For example: "kit will be used in rain garden / bioswale; or, "kit will be a flowering edge between community garden and sidewalk;" or "kit will be planted in currently unused lot edges near pollinator-dependent vegetables."

20. How large is the habitat Project Area where you will plant the kit IN SQUARE *

FEET?

This requires multiplying the length and the width, or estimating the area of a circle or other shape if the bed is irregularly shaped.

calculation for a rectangular bed:

area = length X width

For more complicated bed shapes, see these websites, which can help with

calculating area: [garden area calculator](#) or [basic garden math](#), or [garden area](#). *Note: Xerces is unaffiliated with these linked organizations links are not product endorsements.*

21. After measuring your space, do you have the required amount of planting space and the capacity to install the total number of plants in the kit you selected? *

Check all that apply.

Yes, I have requested the Small Dry Kit and I have at least 500 square feet.

Yes, I have requested Large Upland Kit and I have at least 1000 square feet.

Yes, I have requested the Sandy Soils Kit and I have at least 500 square feet.

Yes, I have requested the Moist Soils Kit and I have at least 700 square feet.

No, I need to rethink my plan.

Other:

22. How do the kit(s) fit into the habitat project? *

Mark only one oval.

The kits will augment an existing habitat.

The kits will augment a planned habitat.

The kits will be the entire project.

Other:

23. What vegetation, if any, is currently on site? *

24. Describe the current site conditions of the planting area. Please include variables

including: weed pressure, slope, soil, drainage, light exposure, water access, etc. *

25. Describe your plan for site preparation of the habitat project area. *

How will the existing vegetation be killed and/or removed? For example, if existing vegetation is sod forming grasses, what equipment will you use to remove the sod? If your site needs multiple seasons of weed management (e.g. still has aggressive perennial weeds, invasive shrubs, etc, please consider managing those first and then applying another year).

26. Please upload photo(s) of your proposed habitat kit project site showing current weed pressure, access, etc. so that we can understand the on-the-ground conditions.

Please include photos that allow us to see current vegetation, slope, site condition, and available space. Aerial screenshots of google maps are NOT sufficient on their

own.

PROPOSALS WITH PHOTOS HAVE A MUCH HIGHER CHANCE OF BEING SELECTED AS KIT RECIPIENTS. It is very hard for us to gauge the current site conditions to confirm shovel-readiness without a photo.

Trouble uploading? We strongly prefer you upload using this portal. But, if you have trouble uploading, you may email your photo directly to eastregion.pollinators@xerces.org. Please include your name in the photo file and be SURE to include enough detail in your email that we know how to match your photo to your application!

Files submitted:

Perennial plantings last many years. They require tending, weeding, watering, and volunteer maintenance. A well-thought out stewardship plan is a requirement for success.

27. Describe how the plants will be watered after transplanting. *Planting(s) are likely to need water AT LEAST once a week during the first growing season especially if there is no significant rainfall (>0.10 inches) during a given week.*

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28. Describe how you will protect the habitat planting from animal damage such as squirrels or birds or deer browse until plants are fully established. *(For example: area is already fenced, temporary fencing will be installed, etc.).*

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29. Describe the plan for assessing plant health, weed pressure, and other changes on site. This ensures management activities or challenges can be addressed when needed.

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30. Please describe any contamination concerns for the kit planting area (i.e. heavy metals, PCBs, former industrial site, garbage was burned here, etc.).

If you have contaminant concerns for the kit planting area, or any steps that have already been taken to address such issues, please summarize here.

(Pesticides are addressed in a separate section).

31. Is there anything about the site that would require special considerations not

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addressed in the sections above (e.g., additional conservation opportunities, known limitations, etc.)

SECTION 5 OF 7: Pesticide Protection

This section helps us evaluate risk to pollinators from **past and future** pesticide use, both at and near the kit planting area.

Pesticides include: insecticides, miticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides and more. [Organic pest products](#), such as neem oil, are also considered pesticides.

Pesticides can have direct harmful effects on bees and other beneficial insects visiting kit plants. Persistent herbicides could also harm kit plants. Common ways pesticides may be applied include: seed coatings, foliar sprays, soil drenches, tree trunk injections, etc. Pesticides may also be present in soil or plants brought to the site. Pesticides may be within lawn care products (e.g. fertilizers), or applied as mosquito, tick, or household treatments.

Landscapers, arborists, residential pest control companies, property managers, vector control districts or others may all apply pesticides. For example, pest control companies may spray for ants or apply termiticides around a structure. Please consult these parties to understand their pesticide uses within or near the kit planting area.

NOTE: Most past or future pesticide use does not automatically disqualify habitat kit projects. Please answer completely. We will evaluate past or future uses to avoid harm to pollinators or to the habitat kit plants. Your detailed responses will help guide location and any protection recommendations.

For a list of herbicides defined for this survey as persistent, with a rotation length of 21 months or longer, please see [this link](#).

32. **Within the kit planting area**, will any of the following have occurred in the **12**

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months prior to planting in spring/early summer 2026? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- a) soil applications of pesticides
- b) plantings of coated seed
- c) injections of pesticides into trees or shrubs
- d) use of PERSISTENT herbicides (those requiring rotation restrictions of 12 months or more)
- e) other (non-persistent) herbicides for preparing the kit planting area
- g) any OTHER applications of pesticides not described above
- f) No pesticides were used

Other:

33. Are any pesticides applied by airplane or helicopter anywhere on the property? * *Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Other:

34. **If any pesticides are used on the property within 125ft** of the proposed kit planting area, please list the following:

--product name(s),

--season used,

--distance from kit planting (#ft),

--method(s) of application (e.g. aerial, airblast, ground-based, backpack sprayer, chemigation).

35. What are your plans to mitigate or reduce exposure to plants and/or insects from

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any adjacent pesticide uses? [Please see this link for ideas.](#)

36. **If** the property borders neighboring active cropland, is your **project area** at least 30 feet from the neighbor's property?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

The property does not border cropland.

37. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about past or future pesticide use on this property?

SECTION 6 OF 7: Outreach, Education, and Community Science

38. Describe your community and those who will benefit from and interact with this

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project. We would love to know more about your organization, farm, school, etc., and how the habitat kits fit into your work at the planting site or with your organization.

39. What languages are spoken in your community/group?

40. Will the kits or planted habitat be used in outreach or education activities about

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monarch butterflies, native bees, or other insect conservation?

Mark only one oval.

Yes / No

41. If applicable, describe how the kits will be used in outreach and education work.

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Please be as specific as possible.

42. If in the future we were to have research partners interested in studying the impact of these kits, would you have interest and/or capacity to support community science initiatives? For example, collecting observational data on monarchs or other important pollinators such as bumble bees.

SECTION 7 OF 7: Final Program Logistics

43. This is an interest form and not a guarantee of kits. I understand that if our

project is selected, Xerces will provide an Agreement Form outlining the requirements of the program. *

Please confirm BOTH :

Check all that apply.

I understand that this form is an interest form and project proposal, NOT a guarantee of a kit.

I understand that Xerces will provide an agreement form outlining the requirements of the program, which I will need to sign and follow.

44. If my project is selected, I agree to submit a Planting Notification Form two weeks

after getting my plants, confirming that I have planted my plants. This will require submitting photos of the planting. *

If awarded a kit, you will receive a project partner collaborative agreement that outlines all specific reporting requirements.

Check all that apply.

I agree to complete and submit my Planting Notification Form within two weeks of getting plants.

45. I ALSO agree to submit a long-form report via a provided form in fall 2026. Xerces

will send you this form in the fall with a request for updates, feedback, and photos of plant establishment. *

Check all that apply.

I agree to submit my full project final report in Fall 2026 when the reporting form is sent to me.

46. If selected, you will receive free Xerces Habitat Kit signs as well as a Pinelands Nursery plaque, and you are asked to post these at the planting site.

Please confirm BOTH:

Check all that apply.

I understand that as part of the kit I will receive two Xerces signs and a Pinelands Nursery plaque.

I agree to post these securely at the planting site.

47. If possible, we encourage kit recipients to arrange to pick-up your kits at the nursery. (This allows us to save money on shipping and provide more total kits.) *Mark only one oval.*

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I will be able to pick-up my kit at Pinelands Nursery located at 323 Island Road Columbus, NJ.

I would like to request shipping.

Do you have other questions, concerns, or comments not addressed above?

Thank you for your interest in pollinator and beneficial insect conservation!

Next steps from Xerces: unless we have questions about your form, you can next expect to hear from us sometime in March 2026. We will review all forms and notify project partners as soon as possible.

Nursery Partner Information: Pinelands Nursery, Columbus NJ

Plant materials for Xerces' Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kits are being grown by our project partners at Pinelands Nursery & Supply (Columbus, NJ).

Pinelands Nursery is one of the largest native plant nurseries in the US, supplying millions of plants for environmental restorations throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. With seed collection in New Jersey, Virginia and New York, Pinelands is proud to be able to propagate plants that are genetically adapted to local conditions. With over 20 years of practical, on the ground experience, Pinelands Nursery is recognized as a leader in the field of environmental restoration.

For more information visit <http://www.pinelandsnursery.com/p/home-page.html>.

Thank you so much to Pinelands for this ongoing partnership!