

Still Growing: Pollinator Habitat Maintenance Tips 4/2025

Bee City USA webinar

Attendee Input

What challenges do you encounter when maintaining habitat?	What solutions to these challenges do you find most effective?	Any tips to implementing these solutions?
Non-native weeds	Native ruderal species, "weedy" native pollinator plants	Learn to identify these and encourage them to compete with non-native weeds
Gophers	Use underground gopher baskets	Watch which plants the gophers attack and which they leave, use baskets for gopher-preferred plants only
Oleander aphids	Manual removal	Be careful to not remove syrphid fly larvae or other predators!
Aggressive invasives	Constant weed eating of goutweed, cardboard and mulch	Need to place soil and seed on top of mulch and cardboard to prevent goutweed from moving back in
High deer density	Selecting plants unpalatable to deer	
DEER	"Mask" tasty plants by planting perimeter with unpalatable plants	
Irrigation getting blocked by larger plants and not reaching small plants	Plan plant placement with regard to irrigation heads in mind	
Difficulty educating people with aesthetics concerns		
People digging up natives :(
Deer, gopher, and rabbits	Fencing fencing fencing!	Remove only once plants are established and robust
Stray cats		
Invasive plants	Tried smothering with compostable weed mat and mulch	Wound up removing soil to remove seed bed of aggressive weeds
Turf grass, smooth brome		
No communication from grounds staff about site issues, i.e. concrete, drainage		