Bee City Wichita Habitat Certification Guide

A garden certified through Grassland Groupies' Bee City Wichita initiative is one that puts pollinators first and provides food, shelter, and a place for our native pollinators to raise their young. There is no minimum size requirement as we believe even a small space can make a big impact. See below for further information on each requirement and recommended best practices.

Certification Requirements:

1. Reduced or zero pesticide/herbicide use
2. Five species of Kansas native plants
3. At least two of those species are pollinator host plants
4. Blooms present in spring, summer, and fall
5. Removal of invasive species (if applicable)
6. $25 application fee and photos of garden/habitat site

Recertification and Upkeep:
It is required that certified gardens be well taken care of and kept up to date with certification requirements. To help with this requirement, each garden must be recertified every three years. When due, garden managers must submit current photos of the garden and pay a $10 fee which directly supports the Bee City Wichita initiative.

Certification Requirements Breakdown:

1. Reduced or zero pesticide use: reducing pesticides is one of the most vital steps we can take to create a pollinator friendly garden and a healthier environment. See Xerces Society's website for ways to reduce pesticide impacts. Ideally, pollinator gardens should have no pesticide or herbicide use in or around them.

2. Five species of native plants: these can be trees, shrubs, wildflowers, or grasses. You can have more than five species and can include non-native species in addition to your five native plant choices. When possible, include local ecotypes and avoid cultivated natives (but any native is better than none!).

3. Two species of pollinator host plants: two of your five chosen native species should be known pollinator host plants. While providing nectar sources is a great first start, supporting the entire insect lifecycle when possible is important.

4. Year-long blooms: at least one species of flowering plant must be in bloom during spring, summer, and fall. We recommend at least two species per season to give pollinators more options as different colors and shapes of flowers will attract different insects.

5. Removal of invasive species: some non-native species of plants are known to be invasive which can overtake a space or even escape gardens and endanger surrounding areas. See Kansas Native Plant Society's Invasive Plant Fact Sheet for a list of plants to look for.

6. Non-refundable $25 application fee: covers cost of printing plus staff time. Renewal fee: $10 every three years.

For help choosing plants/finding vendors see grasslandgroupies.org/bee-city-wichita
Questions? Email Bee City Wichita Chair, Nicole Brown: nicole@grasslandgroupies.org

Please allow two weeks for application review. Once approved, you will be asked to submit your application payment and set up a time for a garden tour if desired or the sign can simply be dropped off.

Bee City Wichita Habitat Certification Application

Your Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Habitat Name (public):

Habitat Address (for internal use only):

Zip Code (public):

City Council District (or N/A if outside Wichita):

Approximate garden/habitat size (square feet or acres):

List the species of pollinator host plants included (2+ species required):

Which season do your native plants bloom? List under appropriate season:

Spring (Mar-May):	Summer (Jun-Aug):	Fall (Sept-Nov):

Note: it is required that you have at least one species blooming each season but two species per season is recommended. If you have a plant that blooms spring-summer, it can count as spring OR summer.

Do we have permission to use non-identifying photos for promo purposes? ▢ Yes ▢ No

Do you wish to be included in the online directory of habitats? ▢ Yes ▢ No

By signing below, I agree to reduce or eliminate pesticide use in and around the Bee City Wichita certified pollinator garden as well as take care of the planting to the best of my ability including regular weeding and invasive plant removal.

_____

Garden Manager Signature

Please email completed application and photos of the garden to nicole@grasslandgroupies.org. Thank you for protecting pollinators in Wichita! A digital version is available here.