

## EXAMPLES OF POLLINATOR GARDEN SITE PREP OPTIONS

### Non- chemical

**MULCH SMOTHER** – cover selected area with wood or leaf mulch. Duration of cover of cover is longer if there is heavy weed pressure. If there is heavy weed history, subsurface seeds and rhizomes should be given an opportunity to surface at least once mid- summer by raking back the mulch and perform a shallow till.

**BLACK PLASTIC SMOTHER** will kill surface vegetation but not the seed bed and rhizomes. So a three week cover should be followed by a shallow till, permitting the seed bed an opportunity to grow slightly and then re-smother for three weeks. The duration of cover/exposure and till cycles is determined by the density and history of “weed” growth present. Mid-June seed sowing can be attempted if the process was started early April.

**CLEAR PLASTIC FOR “STEAM COOK “** surface vegetation and even deeper penetration to seed bed and rhizomes **WHERE BLACK PLASTIC SMOTHER METHOD IS LESS EFFECTIVE.** The window for this to work is determined by hot July direct sun during clear days. **The weed bed has been cut to root level and wetted prior to cover with carefully sealed edges so the heat is captured.**

If it is possible to be successful by late June, the site could be sown before July. Otherwise sow in fall or winter(frost seeding)

**REPEAT TILL -** This method is based on repeat germination of seed bed of weeds and then tilling this competition before it has a chance to become established. The tilling should be performed twice in the spring about a month apart and again in August. And then sow seed in early Sept and possibly again in winter for frost seeding.

**MULCH WAS PLACED ON BROWN PAPER** (commonly used in packing protection) The weed pressure here is heavy and the combination of paper and mulch should protect the plugs from weeds more effectively than mulch a lone.

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#### WEED BLOCK FABRIC



### INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



**1**

Remove weeds and grasses from planting area. Rake smooth.



**2**

Unroll fabric and overlap sections by 2" to 3". Secure with fabric pegs or staples.



**3**

Cut X's as needed for planting and new plants to pass through.



**4**

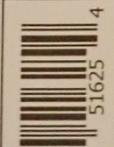
Cover with two inches of bark or stone mulch for longer life.

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### INSTRUCCIONES DE INSTALACIÓN



**1**

Quite las malezas y pastos del área de plantación. Rastrille y empareje.



**2**

Desenrolle la fábrica y superponga secciones de 2 a 3 pulgadas (5-7 cm). Asegure con tela clavijas o grapas.



**3**

Corte en X según sea necesario para que pasen las plantas nuevas o las existentes.



**4**

Cubra con dos pulgadas de corteza o piedras para una mayor duración.

## CHEMICAL

Sprayed with Roundup twice, about a month apart – easy, inexpensive, essential for covering large areas.

Insect populations can be hurt by over use of herbicides when the plants that they depend on for food are eradicated. An example of this is the nationwide loss of milkweed habitat that has endangered the Monarch butterflies. While the butterfly is not directly harmed by the herbicide, the widespread use of herbicide to kill native plants including milkweed and replacement with planted crops has resulted in loss of breeding sites and food supply for their caterpillars has caused a dramatic decline in their numbers.

For meadow establishment, herbicide is used for the initial establishment of a replacement meadow with much higher pollinator value than the existing habitat and then herbicide is used on a very limited basis to maintain that habitat. The benefits to our native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife will greatly outweigh the short-term loss of the current habitat.