



Expanding Bee Better Certified

Positioned as one of the leading biodiversity-focused eco-labels within the food industry, Bee Better Certified is expanding into the energy sector. The Xerces Society is developing a new set of Bee Better Certified energy standards for the power industry in partnership with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) that will soon be applicable to land managed by power companies.

Created in partnership with EPRI, the development of these new standards will create a first of its kind pollinator habitat certification for lands used in the production and delivery of electricity, such as solar energy facilities. This additional sector will create the unique opportunity for companies to complement pollinator conservation in food ingredients and energy sourcing.

Xerces anticipates releasing the new certification opportunity in late 2022, along with training for qualified, third-party verifiers.

[Click here to read the full press release from EPRI.](#)

Fall Planting: Habitat Preview

Habitat restoration plans are underway as part of an expansion of Bee Better Certified acreage. In the hot, arid west, plants perform best when planted in the fall, giving them a period of cool temperatures and winter precipitation to adjust to their new conditions. This fall, growers will plant pollinator attractive plants to provide forage and nesting materials all year round, in what the Bee Better Certified Production Standards refer to as permanent habitat.



Permanent habitat, which must make up at least 1% of the certified acreage, is composed of perennials and reseeding annuals planted in protected areas of the farm. Over the last 5 years in the west, hedgerows have been the go to for many growers, providing great habitat in long linear strips of woody plants at the edge of crop fields, on the ends of crop rows, or along access roads.

This year, the Bee Better Certified team is collaborating with growers to plant habitat in a variety of shapes and sizes. As growers gain experience planting and managing habitat, we see a lot of creativity with designing these features. In areas where perennial crops have been pulled for utility access, we are planting short-stature wildflowers and grasses that can tolerate getting periodically trampled. Next to canals and sloughs we are planting large shrubs that like “wet feet” and rhizomatous subshrubs that will spread out through their roots, filling in gaps to compete with aggressive Mediterranean weeds. In turnouts and equipment yards, growers are planting clusters of attractive plants to provide shade and color in otherwise empty areas.

No matter the planting style, the Bee Better Certified production standards ensure that all plantings going in this fall will provide abundant and safe resources for all creatures great and small.

Globally Certified: Applications Submitted from South American Growers

Bee Better Certified continues to gain momentum internationally with certification applications from growers in Peru and Chile. Following up on early success within the fresh pack produce industry, a number of brands are working to expand their year-round supply of Bee Better Certified produce by working to expand pollinator conservation at both their Northern and Southern Hemisphere supply farms.

In one example of this growth, our team is working with Peruvian based avocado and pomegranate grower Agrolatina and local conservation organizations, Huarango Nature and Conservamos Ica (CONICA) to support Agrolatina’s Bee Better Certification.

Under the request of Agrolatina, Huarango Nature and CONICA conducted a baseline study to document the existing plants and animals around the fields of avocado and pomegranate trees. This study formed the foundation of a plan to create and manage pollinator habitat, one of the primary criteria under Bee Better Certified’s Production Standards.

We are very excited to see the program continue to grow in a critical sourcing region for many North American food and fresh pack produce companies.

For more information on Bee Better Certified
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