

Handouts from Hedgerow Workshop  
EcoFarm 2026

## **Hedgerows and Other Habitat Plantings: Techniques and Benefits**

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1

## **Functions of Conservation Plantings**

- Soil erosion control
- Weed control
- Wildlife habitat
- Sequester carbon
- Barriers
- Beneficial insect and pollinator habitat
- Non-point source water pollution reduction
- Air quality and dust control
- Windbreak and climate modification
- Riparian stabilization
- Aesthetic value
- Economic returns
- Increase in local and regional biodiversity



Tom Grant (aka Shriraman)

2

## Questions for Planning a Hedgerow

- What is your goal?
- Why do you want this hedgerow?
- What crops are adjacent to the hedgerow?
- What is the description of the site: length, height, width, limitations?
- Other considerations: irrigation; soils; pests; weeds; compost, mulch
- Labor to install and maintain
- Planting date, preceded by site preparation (rip, make berm, install irrigation, acquire materials: plants, compost, mulch, gopher baskets, deer protection)



3

## Steps for Planting

- Set planting date
- Site preparation (clear weeds, rip, make berm, install irrigation, acquire materials: compost, mulch, gopher baskets, deer/rabbit protection)
- Make a plant list – grower input on the list
- Source plants at multiple nurseries-Strategies
- Arrange pick-up/delivery
- Coordinate planting, compost and mulching
- Monitoring and Maintenance schedule-think of it as a crop



4

## COMPARATIVE WATER USAGES

Hedgerow 1000' – 0.1 ac-ft/yr

Apples 0.5 ac-ft/yr

Strawberries 2.0 ac-ft/yr

Lettuce 2.0 ac-ft/yr

One Household – 0.4 to 0.9 ac-ft/yr

5

## Flowering Chart over One Year Sample Plant List

**Known Pollen and Nectar Sources for Beneficial Insects**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Willow spp.												
Ceanothus spp.												
Yarrow												
Elderberry												
Coffeeberry												
Hollyleaf Cherry												
Toyon												
Buckwheat spp.												
Deergrass												
Saltbush, Fourwing												
Milkweed												
Goldenrod												
Coyote Brush												

6

## Form for Nursery Inquiry/Order

[illegible]

7

## Selected Hedgerow References

# Pest Control and Pollination Cost–Benefit Analysis of Hedgerow Restoration in a Simplified Agricultural Landscape

Morandin et al. 2015

## Hedgerow Benefits Align with Food Production and Sustainability Goals

Long et al. 2017

## Beneficial Insects Move from Flowering Plants to Nearby Crops

Long et al. 1998



8

## Estimated Costs

### **Activity**

Farmer meetings and planning  
 Planning with foreman  
 Tractor work-labor  
 Other site preparation-labor  
 Picking up materials  
 Irrigation system installation-labor  
 Pre-irrigation-labor  
 Planting-labor  
 Spreading mulch, compost  
 Post-planting monitoring and maintenance  
 Irrigation-labor



9

## Estimated Costs

### **Materials** \$2-\$4+/ft

Tractor work-fuel  
 Irrigation system-parts  
 Plant materials  
 Other site preparation-materials (compost, etc.)  
 Pre-irrigation-water  
 Irrigation-water cost, PGE, fuel  
 Compost, Mulch, cardboard, weedcloth  
 Other (fencing, gopher cages, vehicle use, etc.)



### **Other**

Mileage to pick up compost, irrigation supplies, mulch  
 Annual Costs  
 Estimated yearly water cost  
 Estimated yearly maintenance\*  
 Land Rent  
 \*Monitoring, weeding/mowing, fixing irrigation leaks, replanting

10

## Cost Share and Financial Support

- NRCS – EQIP
- RCD'S
- CDFA-Healthy Soils Program
- Pollinator Partnership Program
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Xerces Society
- Wild Farm Alliance



11

## Food Safety

FSMA does not require the removal of habitat or fencing out of wildlife and says conservation supports food safety.

### Monitor the crop, not the habitat

Take action if crop damage or animal feces are seen.

Factors to be considered before deciding on whether animals are a food safety concern:

- number of animals
- type of animals
- type of crop
- harvest procedure
- neighboring influences
- pathogen of concern



Source: Wild Farm Alliance - [www.wildfarmalliance.org](http://www.wildfarmalliance.org)  
CAFF Food Safety Contact – <https://caff.org/food-safety-services/>

12