

***Incorporation of Pollinator Planting to Enhance Ecosystem Functions and Durability of Transportation Right-of-Way Infrastructure*** Authors

Sophia Lopardo, Dr. Rebecca Brown, Ecology and Ecosystem Science, University of Rhode Island

**Abstract**

This study explores the potential of highway right-of-way's (ROWs) as habitats for native New England grasses and flowering plants, supporting the needs of native pollinators. Emphasizing the adaptability of regionally native and insect-pollinated wildflowers to periodically mowed ROWs, the research assesses various establishment methods, considering existing roadside vegetation. Objectives include promoting pollinator conservation, assessing survival strategies, introducing capable species, and enhancing DOT personnel and contractor capacities. Test plots along I-95 in West Greenwich, RI, evaluated the growth of insect-pollinated native wildflowers, recommending species for roadside plantings. Broadcasting seed over freshly spread screened loam, followed by hydro mulching, proved effective, yielding more species. The study offers valuable insights for Rhode Island DOT to implement cost-efficient pollinator planting initiatives, enhancing ecological services and highway aesthetics.



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