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## Management of habitats for pollinators and other small fauna



### INSPECTION TASKS To check

- ❑ Appropriate state and condition of vegetation planted to feed pollinators is found and their habitats are suitable according to standards in the maintenance plan.
- ❑ No vegetation obstructs driver's field of vision.
- ❑ No Invasive Alien Species are found.
- ❑ Appropriate state of refuges for pollinators and other small fauna (trunks with holes, 'insects hotels', etc.) are maintained according to the standards provided.



### SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE TASKS To do

#### Sow, plant and maintain herbaceous and flowering aromatic plants to feed pollinators

- Plant only native species that are already present in the natural ecosystems.
- Select a variety of plants that feed target pollinators species throughout the season.
- Choose plants that need a low mowing regime and adapt mowing activities according to the flowering period of each plant.

#### Create and maintain insect refuges

- Ensure the presence of breaks in the vegetation cover with small areas of sand and other areas with some dead wood.
- When required, install insect refuges ('bee-hotels' or posts with holes). The hole size and arrangement need to be adapted to the pollinator target species.
- Do not install beehives for honeybees because these could act as competitors for many other species of endangered pollinators.

#### Create and maintain habitats for small fauna

- Consider placing stumps and logs on parts of the verge furthest from traffic, to create habitats for endangered xylophage insects.
- Consider installing stone or wood rows, bat refuges, bird nesting-boxes or any other refuges for fauna in areas where they cannot be affected by vehicle collisions, such as within large wildlife passage.
- Avoid creating 'ecological traps', which are habitats attracting animals to areas with high mortality risk. Seek wildlife/ecology experts to provide information adapted to the local ecological landscape.



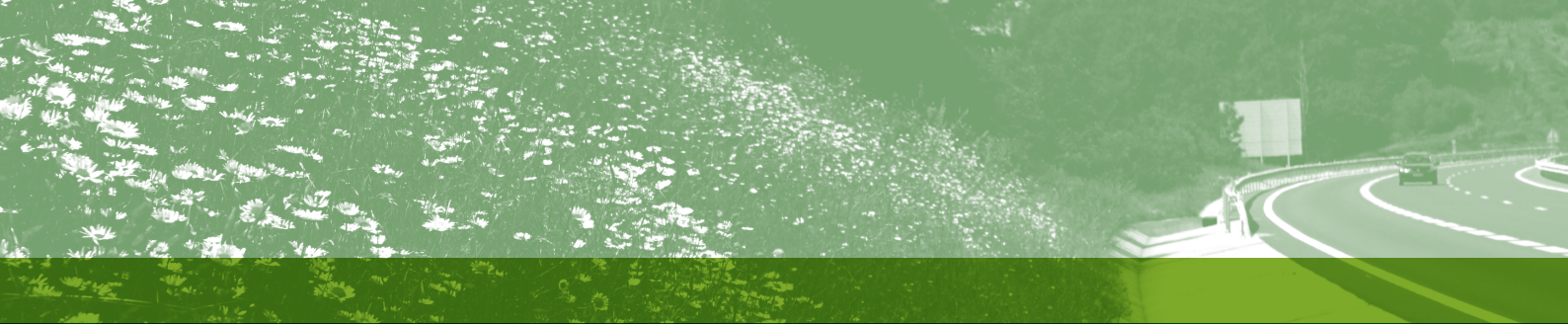
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## Management of habitats for pollinators and other small fauna



### SCHEDULE

- Minimum: once a year, just before spring, the period of pollinators main activity or according to target species requirements.
- In areas where pollinator habitat creation is a target, maintenance tasks should be left until the flowering period of most plants has finished.
- Avoid disturbance caused by vegetation management during breeding and hibernation periods of target species.