



Plants for Pollinators

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

Our project consists of: 1) collecting native milkweed seed from the CNNF, 2) growing milkweed and other native plants plugs for pollinator nectaring 3) planting plugs at native plant nurseries and gardens, and 4) distributing large amounts of cleaned milkweed seed to every districts, 5) using milkweed seed in a variety of habitat management projects across the CNNF.

As part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet's Native Seed Program, volunteers and contractors collected seed from the forest. A local high school science class grew out the seed in their nursery. These plants or "plugs" were planted at native plant gardens at all of the Forest offices to provide pollinator nectaring areas as well as for seed production. The Oconto River Seed Orchard on the Forest also grows native plants for Forest projects.

We also cleaned and packaged large quantities of cleaned common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed and distributed to every district on the CNNF. They utilized the seed in a variety of habitat management projects, including a decommissioned wayside project. To encourage pollinators, our mower operators avoid patches of milkweed, goldenrods, and other nectar flowers when mowing upland openings for wildlife.



Figure 4. Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - Native Plant Garden at Park Falls office, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (photo: M Brzeskiewicz)

Year Project Initiated: 2009
Project completion: ongoing

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2010):

- \$7,000 native seed collecting (total for all natives. Milkweed only estimated at \$750)
- \$800 cleaning and packaging seed
- \$70 flats of milkweed plugs

FY10 funding: NFWW

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

- Prentice High School Science class
- Volunteers and contractors -seed collecting and cleaning
- Oconto River Seed Orchard, CNNF

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Figures 1-3: Students collecting seed for native plant gardens; monarch caterpillar on *Asclepias exaltata*; Monarch chrysalis on fence (photos: N Shutt, M Brzeskiewicz)



**Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest**

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