



Attracting Monarchs Green Mountain National Forest 2010 Accomplishments

The northern hardwoods garden begun at the Rochester District Office of the Green Mountain National Forest in 2008 (and moved to a more protected location in 2009) was maintained in 2010. In addition to the native species that were planted in the garden, some native species already present were encouraged, and they thrived in 2010, including several species of aster, goldenrod, and milkweed. Gardeners were pleased to discover the chrysalis pictured below in 2010. Monarch butterflies were also observed mating in a nearby apple tree.

A second native plant garden was developed at the Manchester District Office in 2010. Milkweed was one of the many native species planted there, and within a couple of weeks, a caterpillar was observed in residence (right).

Milkweed plants are not uncommon on the Vermont landscape, and it is apparent that they have no trouble finding newly established host plants in nearby native plant gardens.



Figure 1. A chrysalis forms on milkweed in the Rochester District Office garden (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green.)



Figure 2. A caterpillar found the newly planted milkweed in the Manchester District Office garden (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green).

Year Project Initiated

- Rochester Garden was begun in 2008, moved to its existing location in summer 2009, and maintained in 2010
- Manchester Garden was initiated in summer 2010

Project completion: Garden maintenance and continued development will be ongoing.

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 10/2010):

- Expenditures for both gardens include costs of planting and maintaining several species; an estimated cost planting and encouraging milkweed for monarchs is \$50. Overall native plant garden costs are in a separate report.

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