



Attracting Monarchs Green Mountain National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

The existing northern hardwoods garden at the Rochester District Office of the Green Mountain National Forest was maintained in 2011. A number of native plant species are thriving there, including many spring ephemerals, ferns, shrubs, and milkweed.

A second native plant garden developed at the Manchester District Office in 2010 continued to thrive in 2011, with milkweed being one of the many native plant species planted there.

A third native plant garden was designed and implemented in 2011 at the Middlebury District Office, and space has been set aside in it to plant additional milkweed in the late autumn or early spring.

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. Seasonal botanist Marllys Eddy planned the Middlebury District Office garden with room for milkweed in one of the sunnier spots. In addition to the garden, landscaping plants were replaced with native species (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green).



Figure 2. Milkweed grows along the back edge of the Manchester District Office garden (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green).

Year Project Initiated

- Rochester Garden was begun in 2008, moved in 2009, and maintained through 2011
- Manchester Garden was initiated in summer 2010 and maintained in 2011.
- Middlebury Garden was initiated in 2011.

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

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures (through 10/2011):

- Expenditures for gardens include costs of planting and maintaining all 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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