



Monarch Butterfly Projects - Superior National Forest 2012 Accomplishments

Although northeast Minnesota is marginal habitat for monarch butterflies, in 2011 the Superior National Forest collected common milkweed seed and planted it in suitable habitat at district offices. Monitoring in 2012 showed that unfortunately none of these plantings succeeded, nor was any feeding by monarch caterpillars detected on milkweed leaves at other locations on the Superior where common milkweed is known to occur.

In 2012 the Superior National Forest burned 185 acres of wildlife openings to maintain the openings and benefit early successional species. These prescribed burns indirectly benefited any nectar-gathering pollinators including monarchs by helping to maintain the openings and maintain nectar-producing wildflowers like flowering dogbane, black-eyed susan, and evening primrose.



Figure 2. Wildlife opening prescribed burn



Figure 1. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) fruit

Year Project Initiated: 2011
Project completion: Ongoing
Report number: 1 of 1
FY12 Expenditures(through 9/30/2012): \$10,000
FY12 funding: NFWF09, WFHF09
Partners/Contractors/Coop: None
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