



Bee Campus USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



South Dakota State University Brookings, South Dakota

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Insect Festival (September 8): This event will become a yearly event at the institution.



POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



1. June 2018- Local Foods Education Center- The local foods project expanded this year to plant even more vegetable crops to distribute to the community. They are now growing around 15,000 square feet of sustainable produce with an additional 6,000 this year. Participants are students from the Local Foods course.

2. June- October 2018- Native tree planting- Facilities & Services planted roughly 30 native trees this season with the assistance of student classes on some occasions. Participants are students from Arboriculture and Woody Plants.

3. Native grass large scale planting- Enhancement June 2018- This project began in 2017 and management has been difficult. We planted roughly 5 acres of native grass mixture in an area on the edge of campus. Instead of spraying broad leaf weeds we have instead tried to mow selectively and inter seed native forbs and grasses to establish a thick stand. 2018 was our first full management season with this strategy. Participants are Facilities & Services staff.

Many of our larger scale pollinator habitat enhancement projects are in the planning stage and ready to start installation in the 2019 season. We are looking forward to the large scale turf alternative forb and sedge meadow to be planted near the center of campus this season.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Our committee is made up of some of our local experts in pollinator behavior and preferences as well as some of our auxiliary operations managers. We are able to act in good faith with a strong educational background for the projects we choose to pursue. The operation managers from our botanical garden and our agriculture museum can then take the information and direction of our committee to create public outreach events that incorporate pollinator awareness. Our chair has started a native plant initiative within her college and is promoting research into native plants with pollinator value for the nursery industry.

We have a lot of ground to cover in the next season in adopting a comprehensive IPM plan for campus grounds management. Our current plan is under review from another peer institution at the moment for critique. Our locally recommended species list is very comprehensive as our committee has a considerable amount of expertise in this area. Currently we have a campus class working with that document as an opportunity to create a published list. This should be completed by the end of the semester. We look forward to hosting public documents for other institutions to gain inspiration from.

SERVICE-LEARNING

The Native Plant Initiative (NPI) started this past season at SDSU. This is a research initiative that is funded by the university to study the nursery trade demand for uncommon native plants. Facilities & Services currently has a plant order with the initiative to grow over 2,000 plugs for an upcoming pollinator planting in the spring of 2019. The intention is to have this campus entity grow many of the hard to find pollinator plant species for our campus habitat projects going forward. We should have photographs this coming season. This initiative is a for credit independent study opportunity for students.

The largest service learning project we have in the past year is the NPI. There is an opportunity to have the student classes of Restoration Ecology assist in planting of the SDSU grown native plants to fully integrate this system. We are in the very beginning stages and we are eager to see what future growth will yield.

CURRICULUM

We are currently involved in a course audit for sustainability and are using this opportunity to audit for pollinator inclusion as well. We expect to see the number of courses with pollinator focus and consideration rise dramatically on the next report due to better metrics. Here are the for credit courses offered in 2018.

- Spring 2018- Local Foods - Production- 26 students
- Summer/ Fall 2018 - Local Foods - Harvest - 32 students
- Fall 2018 Turf and Weed Management- 16 students
- Fall 2018- Insects in Society - 14 students
- Fall 2018- Restoration Ecology- 30 students
- Spring/Fall- Introduction to Horticulture - 68 students
- Spring 2018- Horticultural Pests – 18 students
- Spring 2018- Rangeland Ecology- 80 students
- 2018 - Wildland Ecosystem- 36 Students

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

We did not install educational signage last season but we have educational signage planned for the upcoming large scale pollinator planting in the spring of 2019. The recommendation has been made to retrofit signage into areas that have strong pollinator value and we anticipate installing some of that signage in 2019.

CONTACT US!

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