



# Bee Campus USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



## South Dakota State University Brookings, South Dakota

### EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Students are introduced to a variety of pollinators



Young students learn about different kinds of insects



Participants help catch and tag monarch butterflies.

- March 13: All About Insects
- March 15: Art and Arthropods
- March 21: Insect Migration: More than Monarchs
- May 16: Insect Gardens
- June 18: Pollinator Tour
- July 26: Moth Watch
- September 5: Monarch Tagging Class
- September 7: Insect Festival
- November 15: An Introduction to Bats



Local experts lead campus pollinator tour

South Dakota State University is lucky to have many local experts to assist in the outreach and education opportunities that we offer to the public.

Much of this outreach is aimed at younger generations, which we feel is very important.

Interest and attendance in these educational sessions is growing in our community and we are happy to introduce new students to the natural environment.

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



The 15,000 square foot produce garden at the Local Foods Education Center



Part of the summer 2019 crew

From March through October, students are busy at the Local Foods Education Center where they plant, grow, and harvest approximately 15,000 square foot of sustainable produce. This area is incorporated into university curriculum as well as the hub for a produce donation program to local food pantry and

meal program services.

Facilities & Services is busy planting trees, many of them native species, during the same timeframe. Last season we planted around 40 new trees that are regionally native to the northern great plains.

In spring of last year we had a new pollinator plant area installed with a building project. The planting has a large quantity of native milkweed and other native perennials and shrubs. This area mirrors an existing pollinator planting across the street and is a main access road to the center of our campus.

In fall of 2019 we again began planting a large scale lawn alternative area of native sedges, no mow turf, and regionally native flowering forbs. This project is adjacent to a new building project in the center of campus and will allow students to see a daily example of what these alternative lawn areas can look like. We expect to work on this area yearly with campus groups that grow native perennials. The intent is to use this area as a local example of sustainable landscaping.

## SERVICE LEARNING

Students again operated the Native Plant Initiative this past year at SDSU. This research initiative will grow locally native plants and evaluate them for nursery trade and restoration industry use. Many of the plants that the NPI grows are not offered in the nursery trade. Our grounds department is in an excellent position to fund the growing of uncommon native plants for use in our campus landscapes for pollinator support. We have an order in for a few thousand native plant plugs for this spring.

Last season was the first year of growing and was a learning year. Yields were very low due to an untimely herbicide incident that eliminated most of the seedlings. We are excited to be able to get plants into the ground this season from the NPI project. We hope to partner with Restoration Ecology to help plant the numerous new plants.

Native Plant Initiative Website - <https://www.sdstate.edu/npi>

## CURRICULUM & CONTINUING EDUCATION

There were fifteen, up from eight, pollinator-related courses offered at South Dakota State University in 2019. They included:

- HO 111 Intro to Horticulture - 76 students (Spring and Fall)
- HO 329 Horticultural Pests - 12 students (Spring)
- HO 434 Local Foods - 32 students (Spring)
- HO 491 Independent Study - 4 students (Spring and Fall)
- HO 435 Local Foods - 5 students (Summer)
- HO 210 Turf Management - 14 students (Fall)
- HO 435 Local Foods - 30 students (Fall)
- Rang 205 Introduction to Range Management - 123 students (Spring)
- EES 275 Introduction to Environmental Science - 20 students (Spring)
- Rang 321 Wildland Ecosystems - 36 students (Spring)
- HO 447/547 Organic Plant Production – 11 students (Spring)

## EDUCATIONAL & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

We are currently working through our interpretive signage design and locations for campus. There are two locations that are being considered for signage; both areas are centrally located with great exposure to students, faculty, employees, and visitors.

## POLICIES & PRACTICES

SDSU drafted a new Least Toxic IPM plan for our campus Grounds Management team to use when servicing campus. This plan is far more instructional and comprehensive than the plan we have had since 2012. The plan sets thresholds for treatment of various pests and restricts the use of known toxic pesticides. We look forward to hosting this online after it is edited for accessibility.

We identified nearly 40 acres of area where pesticides will not be used unless absolutely needed for invasive or exotic plant eradication, and only as a last resort to mechanical removal. These areas will function as low maintenance habitat zones for campus wildlife, including pollinators.

**Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List** — We are currently editing documents for accessibility, URL is not available.

**Regional Native Plant Supplier List** — We are currently editing documents for accessibility, URL is not available.

**Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan** — We are currently editing documents for accessibility, URL is not available.

## CONTACT US!

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**Website** — <https://www.sdstate.edu/sustainability/bee-campus-usa>

**Social Media** — Not available