

Bee Campus USA - South Dakota State University

Report on 2020

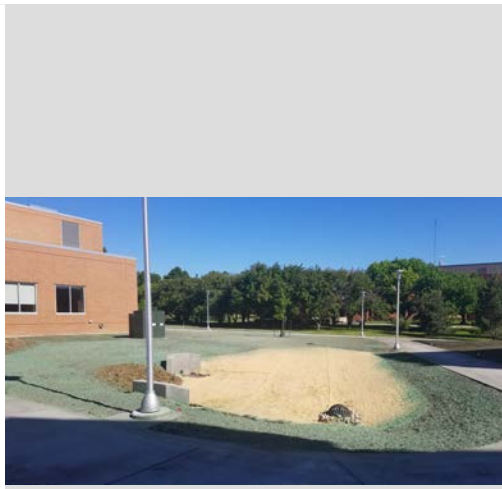
Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Despite the challenges of COVID we were able to get a substantial amount of habitat planted or enhanced this past year. Due to social distancing and de-densification guidelines, we did not have much opportunity for volunteers this season. The most prominent project this season was the planting and establishment of the native grass lawn alternative area and rain garden area at the new American Indian Student Center located near the SDSU campus core. The area is nearly half an acre and is designed to provide habitat and lesson the mowing and maintenance inputs in this area. We plan to continually supplement the grasses with forbs over the next few seasons as funding allows. Adjacent to the new native grass area is the Sedge Meadow area where we planted out a few hundred new forbs last season to offer a richer habitat for pollinators. The sedge meadow also received an overseeding of sedge in fall for germination and establishment this coming season. More forbs are planned for this coming year as well. Nearly half an acre of flowering, native perennials were planted in 2020 at our new Specialty Crops Research area here at SDSU. Research from these plots will help to provide information to the industry on growing and seed production for native plants that tend to be under-represented in nursery trade. These plants were planted with help of student volunteers. Local Foods Education Center again planted vegetables in our demonstration and production plots on the north side of campus. Usually this project is volunteer heavy, but due to COVID we were only able to get a couple of local Master Gardeners to help with the project; we appreciate their eagerness to do so!





Students plant rows of native perennial plants for research at SDSU.



New habitat seeding for rain garden and lawn alternative near American Indian Student Center was completed in Summer 2020.



New habitat establishing throughout the summer without the use of pesticides.

Education & Outreach

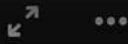
Outreach events in 2020 were mostly conducted on a virtual basis, which gathered many viewers in some instances. Monarch at McCrory! introduced viewers to the large-scale citizen science project of tracking the migration of monarch butterflies as they move south through our area. The event allowed viewers to tag along and watch the process. Other events like the Insect Tour & Scavenger Hunt and Pollinator Spotlight: Bees, introduced participants to insects and their associations to plants that can be found in home gardens. The decline of honeybees was discussed in detail as well by local researchers studying this subject. An informational session on Native Bee House utility and construction was also presented this season to give viewers an introduction to how they can help foster habitat for these sensitive species.





McCrary Gardens

Sep 15, 2020



Monarchs at McCrary!

37

17 Comments 1.1K Views



Virtual outreach events were popular in 2020, including this Monarch Tagging event that attracted nearly 400 participants.

Courses & Continuing Education

This year SDSU is reporting 24 for-credit courses that incorporated pollinator dedicated material in 2020. Some of these courses were offered in multiple semesters. This is an increase from the previous season of 15 courses reported. Classes that included pollinator material include: BOT301 Plant Systematics, BOT419 Plant Ecology, BOT715 Advanced Plant Ecology, EES 275 Introduction to Environmental Science, EES425 Restoration Ecology, HO105 Insects in Society, HO111 Introduction to Horticulture, HO111L Introduction to Horticulture Lab, HO210 Turf and Weed Management, HO329 Horticultural Pests, HO434 Local Foods, HO435 Local Foods, HO491 Independent Study, NRM405/PS405 Entomology, PS791 Independent study, PS792 Special Topics, RANG205 Introduction to Range Management, RANG321 Wildland Ecosystems, WL220 Introduction to Wildlife & Fisheries.





Educational material housed in the Severin-McDaniel Insect Research Collection includes all native bees from South Dakota.

Service-Learning

We were unfortunately unable to host any service learning projects in 2020. We look forward to hosting some projects in 2021.



Educational Signage

We were unable to get permanent signage installed in 2020, though we have an excellent team working on getting these signs installed for this season. Interpretive habitat establishment signage will be placed in the newly planted habitat areas in the campus core to help provide context for the landscape in these areas while they reach maturity.

Policies & Practices

SDSU Grounds Services has implemented a least toxic approach to any pest management on campus. Thresholds for insect pressure in landscape beds needs to be very high before we begin spraying any pesticides for control. The best approach to pest management is to plant species that are tolerant or resistant to pest pressures, which we do a great job of. Broadcast applications of pesticides in our beds are not permitted. Chemical control of weeds is a targeted approach in lawns, and to a lesser extent in landscaped beds. Removal by hand is still the most common control in landscaped beds. We continue to set more areas into a habitat designation that are not maintained with herbicides unless it is the only control option for weedy plants. Last season we allowed the release of biocontrol species for targeted control on specific weeds in one of our habitat areas.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM_SDSTATE.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:





Bumble Bee activity in a campus habitat area.

Learn More



The BCUSA Subcommittee, absent a couple of members.

