

## USDA Forest Service: Monarch News

### Monarch Garden Installed on Grand River Ranger District, Dakota Prairies Grasslands

**Who (partners):** Children from the local girl scouts and boy scouts, scout leaders and staff of the Grand River ranger district.

**What (*species*):** Monarch butterflies and other pollinators will now be able to rest and have a drink of flower nectar thanks to the efforts of local girl and boy scouts and other local folks.

**When:** June 2, 2007

**Where:** Lemon, South Dakota

**How:** With the assistance of local girl and boy scouts and others that attended the grand opening, a pollinator garden was created. The pollinator garden was planted to help protect the biodiversity of local pollinators to give us the chance to see butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other friendly fauna. Many seeds were scattered to create a high density of diverse plants to attract pollinators. This garden will contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for generations of both pollinators and people! Almost 80% of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for fertilization, and about 200,000 species of animals act as pollinators.

The project was a huge success, and a great time was had by all in attendance. The young scouts learned about native plants, monarch butterflies and other pollinators and how providing habitat for these animals helps not only the pollinators and the plants they depend on but people as well. About 100 of the 150 food crops Americans eat need a pollinator to successfully produce the fruits and vegetables we depend on for our own survival.

**Why:** The young people and those who are young at heart learned about the population declines of pollinators. They learned that loss of habitat is a big reason why they are declining. The scouts were also taught about the monarch butterfly and the special help they need as they migrate south to Mexico in the fall and then begin their migration back north in the spring. They also learned that everyone can make a difference by planting a butterfly or better yet a pollinator garden in their own back yards. Monarch habitat areas provide food, resting places and areas to lay eggs that will hatch and become the next generation of monarchs.

**Contact:** Babete Anderson @ 701-250-4463 ext 143



Young and old alike learn about the importance of pollinators and the role pollinator gardens can play in providing healthy ecosystems.



Local scouts had a great time planting the pollinator garden and will return next year to see the fruits of their labor.