

Enhancing Pollinator Populations in Restored Prairie Habitats

2007 Accomplishments

Restoring native habitats, such as tallgrass prairie, requires more than plants; reconstruction of a complete ecosystem requires all the elements, including pollinators. Without proper pollinators, many native wildflowers will fail to reproduce. Restoring pollinator populations requires providing more than a few native wildflower species; instead, there must be appropriate nectar sources present throughout the growing season, from spring through fall.

During 2007, this award enabled Midewin to purchase approximately 3500 plants representing thirty species important to local pollinators, including blazing-stars, ironweeds, milkweeds, prairie-clovers, and violets. Midewin, through its volunteers and environmental stewardship program, produced an additional 30,000 plants in 2007. These plants were installed in restorations and seed increase areas on Midewin by eight seasonals; these positions were also funded by this award.



Swamp milkweed provides nectar for a wide range of pollinators, including monarch butterflies.



Seasonals hired with the NFN3 grant enhance prairie restorations on Midewin with over thirty species of native nectar sources and larval food plants for pollinators..

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2007

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$73,000
- Expend: \$73,000
- Remaining: \$0

Partners: Midewin Volunteers, Mighty Acorns Environmental Stewardship Grades 4-5-6

Eric Ulaszek, Horticulturist
815-423-2123

**Midewin National
Tallgrass Prairie**

30239 South State Route 53
Wilmington IL 60481