



NRB Prairie Patch through the Seasons

by John C. Marlin, Project Coordinator



April 2012

Greenhouse-grown seedlings were planted April 22, 2012, in a patch of mulched bare soil.



June 2012

After 2 months of growth, the seedlings were about six inches high and were spreading out.



July 2012

Thanks to watering during the drought, most plants thrived and some species bloomed in July.



August 2012

After 4 months, prairie dropseed (grass in foreground) began to form its characteristic bunches.



October 2012

Showy goldenrod (yellow), aromatic aster (purple) and Heath aster (white) bloomed in early October.



October 2012

Hundreds of insect species used the patch for collecting pollen and nectar or feeding on leaves and stems (see below).



November 2012

The prairie went to seed and entered dormancy in the fall. It was then mowed.

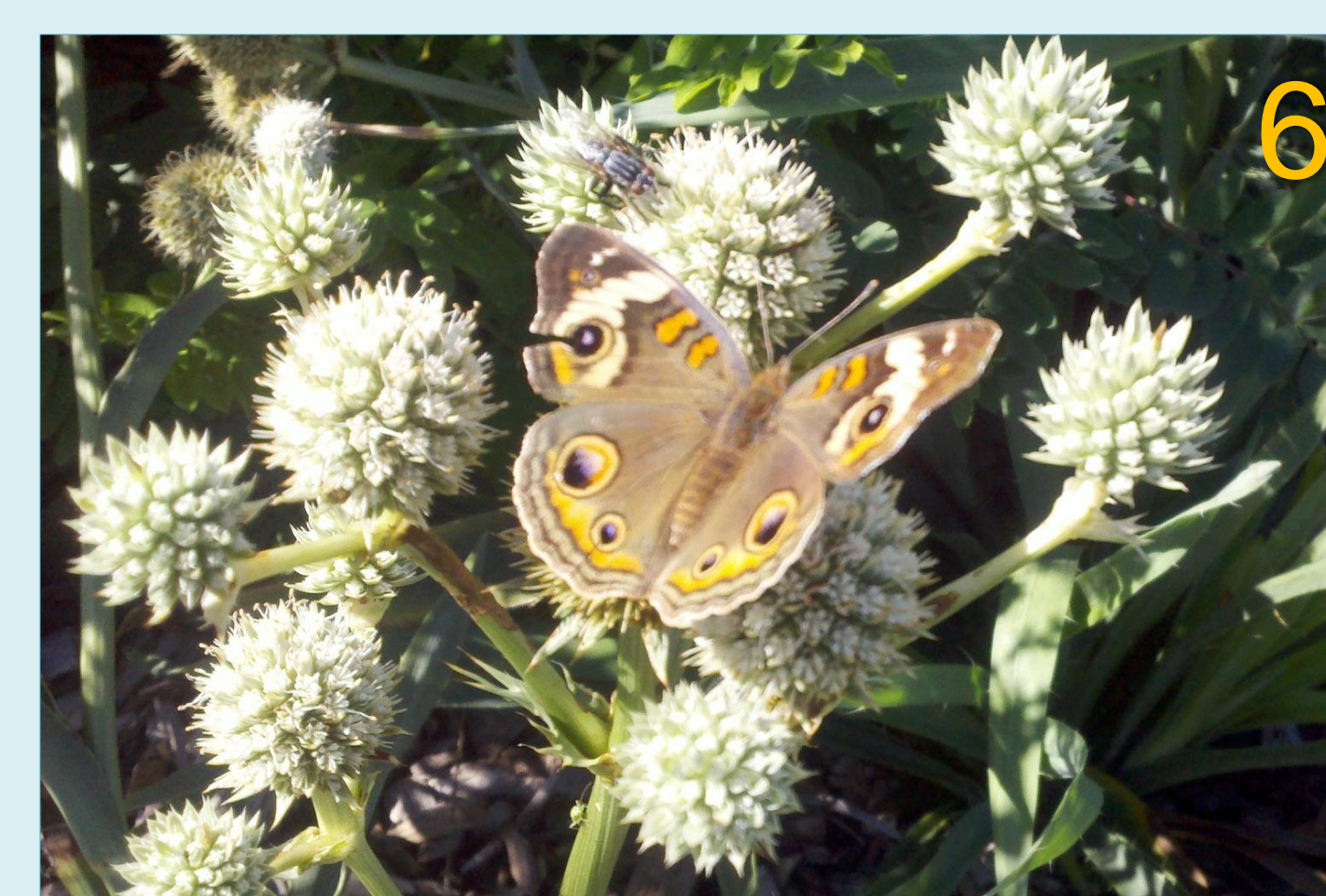
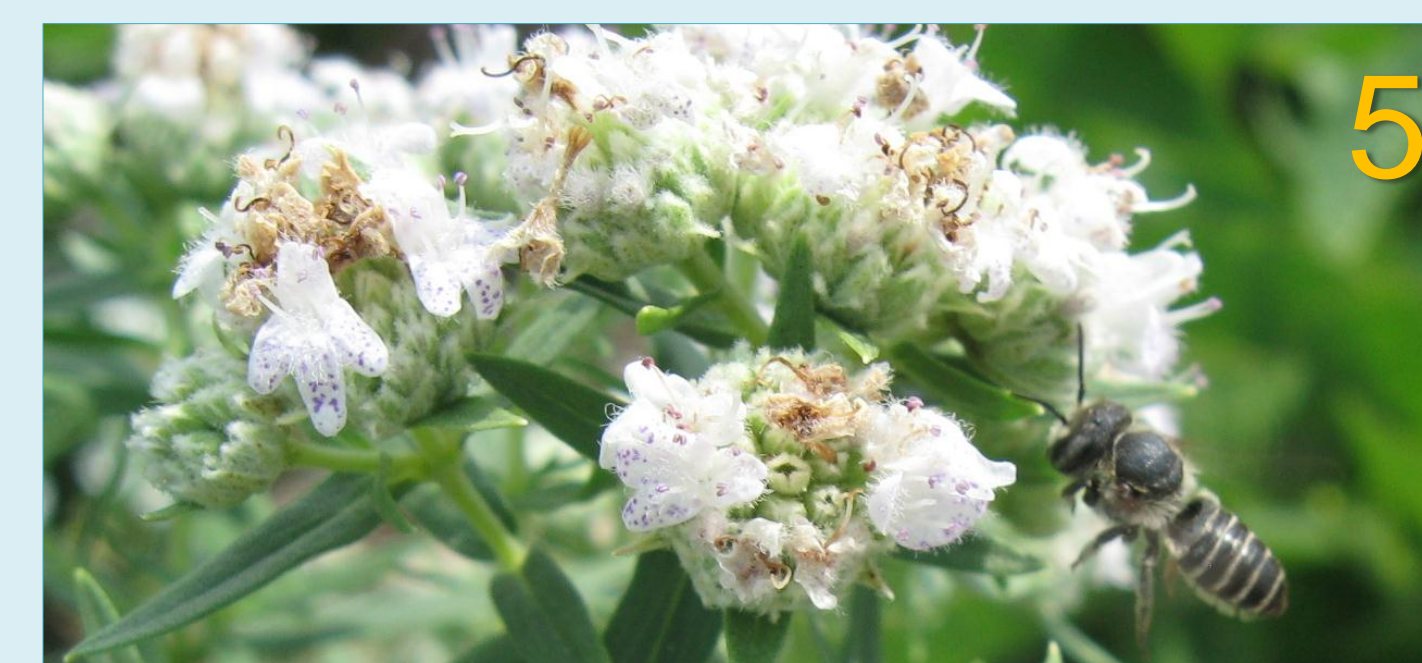
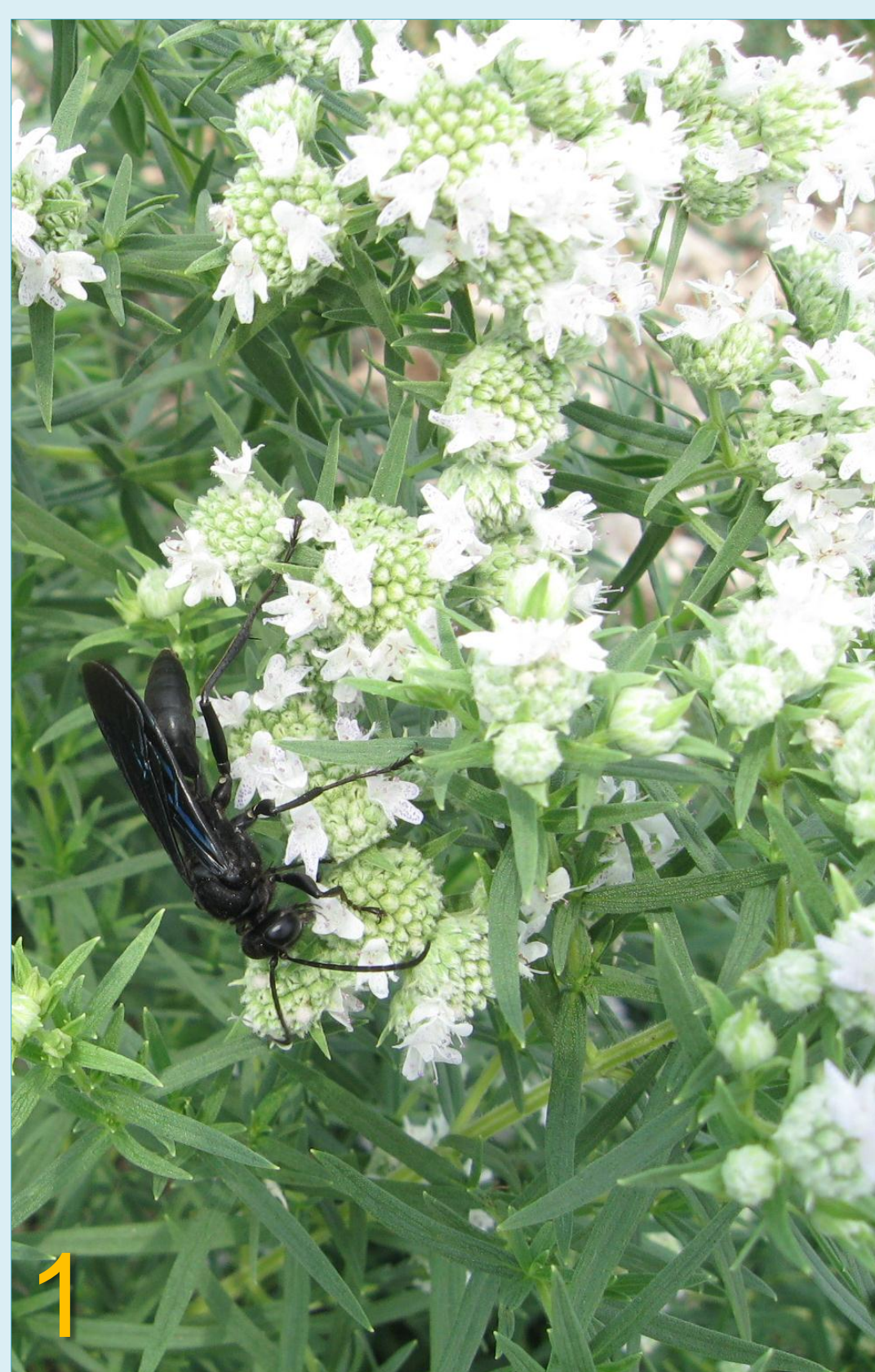


February 2013

Large underground rhizomes, which sequester carbon, live through the winter and will sprout in the spring.

Insects & Flowers

1. Sphecid Wasp on Mountain Mint
2. Painted Lady Butterfly on Blazing Star
3. Monarch Caterpillar on Milkweed



4. Honey Bee on Goldenrod
5. Leafcutter Bee on Mountain Mint
6. Buckeye Butterfly on Rattlesnake Master