

# Saving the Monarch



## BUTTERFLY



### Why they are an endangered species\*

- Not enough milkweed plants which are the only food source for Monarch caterpillars.
- Not enough nectar plants for the Monarch butterflies.
- Climate change and habitat loss. Land development has reduced their overwintering habitat in Mexico.
- Pesticides and herbicides have threatened the Monarch population.

### What you can do

- Plant Milkweed plants. They seem to prefer *Asclepias fascicularis*. (see more information below)
- Plant nectar plants (see below for list)
- Reduce your use of chemicals and support growers who do the same.
- Organic matter and soil life.



### Growing Milkweed

The only food source for a Monarch Caterpillar. The Monarch Butterfly lays their eggs in a Milkweed plant. And, before their overwinter flight to Mexico, Milkweed provides nourishment. Other butterfly types like Milkweed, too!

If you have the space, a dozen Milkweed plants, should attract Monarchs. In spring they breed. By late July, Monarch caterpillars will be noshing on your Milkweed. You could have multiple generations by fall.

The Monarch prefers a narrow-leaf Milkweed or *Asclepias fascicularis*.

### Tips on growing Milkweed *Asclepias fascicularis*,

- They need full sun (6 hours)
- You can grow them by seeds easily
- 4" Milkweed are sold by Annie's Annuals (season dependent)
- They are drought tolerant
- They tolerate sandy or clay soil But, make sure it has good drainage.
- Deer resistant
- Winter tolerant to 0 degrees



### Nectar Plants Enjoyed by the Monarch\*

#### Best Nectar Plants

Prairie Verbena  
Purple coneflower | Echinacea  
Black-eyed Susan  
Lantana

Asters  
Yarrow | Achillea millefolium  
blazing star | Liatris spicata  
Mealy blue sage | Salvia farinacea

\*Source: Multiple sources including Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center



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