

or Monarch Waystation*?

Why Native Plants Matter

Butterflies and moths depend predominantly on native plants as their larval host plants. In the case of monarchs, milkweed species are critical for their survival. Whenever possible, grow local genotype native plants that have co-evolved in their native habitats with other plants and wildlife, such as insect pollinators. Local genotype native plants are vigorous and hardy. Adapted to their region, they can survive winter cold and summer heat. The deep roots of native plants, especially those of prairie plants, trees and shrubs, hold soil, control erosion and withstand droughts. Native plants, once established, require little watering and better tolerate native pests. To prevent the local extinction of native flora, plants should be purchased from reputable nurseries and not dug from natural areas. For local genotype guidelines: wildones.org/learn/native-plants-and-landscaping/local-ecotype-guidelines



**Monarch Waystations* is a certification program developed by Monarch Watch in 2005. Its aim is to develop places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration.

“Without milkweeds there can be no monarchs” — Douglas W. Tallamy

Want to get more involved?

- Collect native milkweed seed and encourage others to grow milkweeds. For details: wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs
- Join local efforts to protect and restore natural areas and monitor pollinators. Encourage land stewards of parks, preserves and wildlife areas to include more milkweed species in their restorations.
- Talk to your friends, family and neighbors about the role of pollinators in food production and ecosystem health.
- Lots of space? Plant native trees for butterflies and moths including: oak, cherry, willow and hackberry.
- Keep outdoor lighting turned off at night—light pollution may be harmful to some pollinators.
- Does your state follow a Roadsides for Wildlife program? If not, why not help start one? Work with your township to reduce roadside mowing if there are native species remaining. See: xerces.org/pollinator-conservation-roadsides
- Find out about policy issues that affect pollinators and share information with your government representatives.
- Join your state's landscape registry to be alerted to use of pesticide/herbicide applications by landscape services.

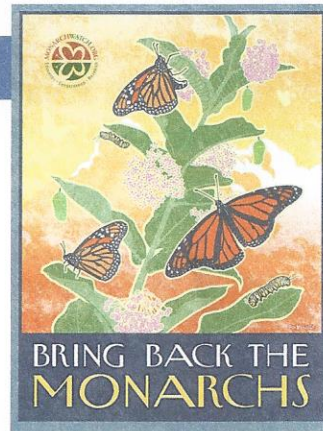


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