



PHOTO: CHERYL LLOYD

WHY NATIVE PLANTS

Butterflies and moths depend predominantly on native plants as their larval host plants. In the case of monarchs, milkweed species (*Asclepias*) 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.

Additionally, native plants are often hardier and more resilient, adapted to local environmental conditions, including temperature, rainfall, and soil types. Their deep root systems, especially those of prairie plants, trees and shrubs, stabilize soil, control erosion, and mitigate the effects of drought.

Once established, native plants generally require less maintenance and watering and can better tolerate native pests, making them more sustainable for both the environment and gardeners. By choosing native plants in our gardens, we play a vital role in preserving these intricate ecological relationships and supporting the overall health and biodiversity of our local ecosystems.



MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

Wild for Monarchs is a collaborative effort between Wild Ones and Monarch Joint Venture that aims to educate and engage individuals and communities in planting native species that provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for pollinators, thus enhancing biodiversity, improving ecosystem resilience, and contributing to sustainable landscapes.

GET INVOLVED

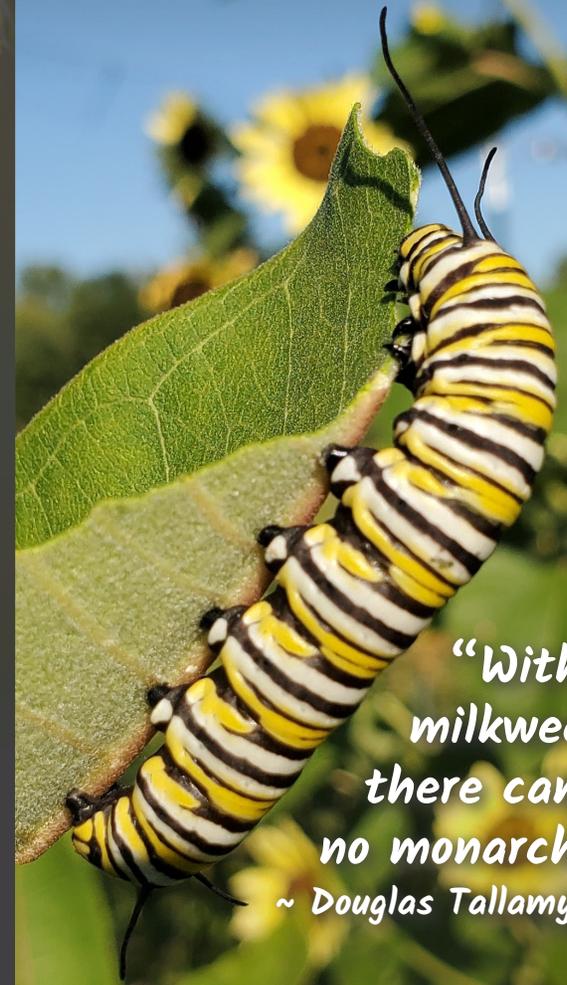
You can be part of the crucial effort to protect monarch butterflies and their habitats. Join the Wild for Monarchs program!

- Learn more about the vital role of native plants and pollinators.
- Participate in community initiatives to plant native species.
- Join local efforts to protect and restore natural areas and monitor pollinators. Encourage land stewards of parks, preserves and wildlife areas to include native milkweed species in their restorations.
- Talk to your friends, family and neighbors about the role of pollinators in food production and ecosystem health.
- Plant native trees for butterflies and moths including oak (*Quercus*), cherry (*Prunus*), willow (*Salix*) and hackberry (*Celtis*).
- Keep outdoor lighting turned off at night—light pollution is harmful to some pollinators and other wildlife.
- Find out about policy issues that affect pollinators and share information with your government representatives.
- Join your local Wild Ones chapter and participate in developing native habitats.



JOIN TODAY

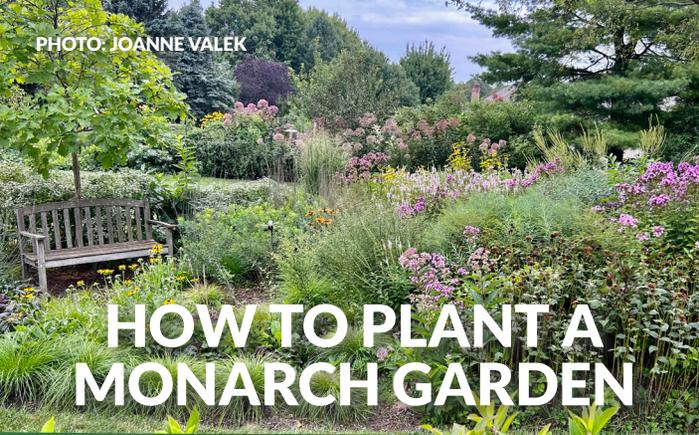
Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. We envision native plants and natural landscapes thriving in every community. Visit wildones.org to learn more!



“Without milkweeds there can be no monarchs.”

~ Douglas Tallamy

PHOTO: MANDY DUNCAN



HOW TO PLANT A MONARCH GARDEN

Creating a butterfly garden or monarch waystation is a meaningful and impactful way to contribute to the well-being of the environment and support essential pollinators.

1. Join Wild Ones for support, advice, and a network of native plant enthusiasts and conservationists.
2. Site preparation involves selecting a sunny site, assessing soil, and clearing existing vegetation through non-chemical methods such as solarization.
3. Design considerations ensure the result is visually appealing while also offering food, water, and shelter for pollinators. Select native plant species of varied heights that bloom at different times. Include at least two types of locally native milkweed (*Asclepias*) for monarchs and nectar-rich plants important to migrating monarchs.
4. Plant selection is crucial. Prioritize regionally adapted native plants, favoring straight species over cultivars, and ensure they are untreated with pesticides. Plants should be purchased from reputable nurseries and never removed from natural areas.
5. Maintain your garden with water, weeding, and mulch until established. Always avoid pesticides and herbicides. Leave dead leaves and stalks in the fall for overwintering pollinators.
6. Monitor pollinators and contribute to community science. Spending time in your native plant pollinator garden offers the pleasure of witnessing the thriving ecosystem you've created.
7. Share garden photos on Wild Ones' social media, invite local chapters for tours, and support new gardens by sharing seeds. Consider educational signage to educate passersby about the benefits of supporting pollinators and native plant ecosystems.

MILKWEED

Monarchs feed almost exclusively on milkweed from the *Asclepias* genus, which encompasses around 110 species in North America. Consider planting a minimum of ten individual plants, ideally incorporating at least two different species. Female monarchs will lay eggs on all milkweed species, but they prefer some over others. *Wild Ones recommends the planting of regionally appropriate native milkweed species.

PLANT THESE SPECIES*



Common Milkweed
(*A. syriaca*)



Swamp Milkweed
(*A. incarnata*)



Butterfly Weed
(*A. tuberosa*)

AVOID

Tropical milkweed (*A. curassavica*) is not native to the U.S. and its long bloom time may be detrimental to monarch migration.

NECTAR PLANT LIST

Nectar plants provide food for adult monarchs and other pollinators throughout the season. Pick from early, mid- and late-flowering species and have at least three different kinds of plants in bloom at any time. This list of plants is assembled from key monarch nectar sources spanning a broad geographical range but with a particular focus on the Midwest and East Coast regions. Always choose plants from your native ecoregion. For information and plant lists specific to your local area, contact your nearest Wild Ones chapter. Species listed alphabetically by scientific names.

EARLY-BLOOMING

SHRUBS & TREES

- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*, *A. laevis*, *A. interior*)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)
- Wild blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*, *V. angustifolium*)

FORBS

- Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
- Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
- Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
- Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
- Wild phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
- Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
- Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*, *Viola* spp.)

MID-SEASON

SHRUBS & VINES

- Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)
- New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*)

MID-SEASON

SHRUBS & VINES continued

- Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- Sumac (*Rhus typhina*, *Rhus glabra*, *Rhus* spp.)
- White meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)

FORBS

- Nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*)
- Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*, *A. androsaemifolium*)
- Wild blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
- Partridge pea (*Cassia fasciculata*)
- Thistles (*Cirsium altissimum*, *C. muticum*)
- Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.)
- Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*, *E. purpureum*)
- False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
- Roundheaded bushclover (*Lespedeza capitata*)
- Blazingstar (*Liatriis spicata*, *L. ligustylis*, *Liatriis* spp.)
- Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)
- Common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*)

MID-SEASON

FORBS continued

- Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)
- Yellow prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
- Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
- Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Wild senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)
- Purple-stemmed aster (*Symphotrichum puniceum*)
- Hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*)
- Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

LATE-FLOWERING

SHRUBS

- Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

FORBS

- False aster (*Boltonia asteroides*)
- Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
- Calico aster (*Symphotrichum laterifolius*)
- Stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)
- Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
- Heath aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*)
- Smooth aster (*Symphotrichum laevis*)
- New England aster (*S. novae-angliae*)
- Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*, *V. missurica*)