



What's the problem with Monarchs?

Loss of the Monarch's unique food plant, the milkweed.



Native Plants

Native Milkweed plants are being made available through SCAS, as long as supplies last.

List of native plants on SCAS website.



Learn More

Links to information articles from the New York Times, Huffington Post, and Monarch Watch are on SCAS website



Keep the project going

Join Sullivan County Audubon Society or donate money to SCAS' "Milkweed for Monarchs Fund" to help purchase milkweed plants for future plantings.

Photo: Renee Davis



Buckeye on Milkweed in Sullivan County

How can you help?

- ⇒ Plant native milkweed.
- ⇒ Plant native nectar-producing flowers.
- ⇒ Write letters to governmental leaders and CEO of Monsanto, Roundup producer.
- ⇒ Donate \$ to SCAS for more milkweed plants to make this an on-going project.

Photo: Ruth McKeon



More information on the SCAS website:
www.sullivanaudubon.org

Click on "Butterflies" & "Milkweed for Monarchs"

- Links to Monarch articles from The New York Times, Huffington Post, and Monarch Watch.
- Complete list of native plants provided by Carolyn Summers.
- Green Column article "Milkweed, Monarchs, and GMOs"
- PDF of this brochure

"Milkweed for Monarchs" (and Other Pollinators)

Photo: Steve Davis



"In real estate it's location, location, location and for Monarchs and other wildlife it's habitat, habitat, habitat."

Chip Taylor
Director of Monarch Watch



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The goal: Restore habitats for Monarchs and other pollinators. Create a meadow of native plants in your yard and you may have 20⁺ species of bees and butterflies coming to feed.

“Bring Back the Monarchs”

The population of Monarch Butterflies varies from year to year, but the numbers of migrating Monarchs has been significantly decreasing over the last 10 years.

What are the possible causes of the decline?

- Bad Weather: drought and extreme heat.
- Logging in the Monarch’s over-wintering areas of Mexico.
- Loss of milkweed along the Monarch’s migratory routes (This is believed to be the most significant cause of decline.)

Monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweed. Monarch caterpillars feed only on milkweed.

Patches of the milkweed have rapidly disappeared as farmers, over the past 10 years, have switched to growing crops that are genetically engineered to tolerate the herbicide, Roundup. The increased use of Roundup has all but wiped out milkweed that once grew between rows of corn and soybeans. The result is a landscape that has been “sterilized” of plants that are needed by Monarchs and other pollinators.

What is the national need? We need a milkweed corridor stretching along the entire migratory route of the Monarch. “Last Call for Monarchs” at www.huffingtonpost.com

Locally you can plant milkweed and other nectar-producing plants to help restore habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators, e.g., honeybees, butterflies, moths, other bees, ants and hummingbirds.

Milkweed

Local Native Milkweeds

Common Milkweed, (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Photo: Monarch Watch

Common Milkweed spreads. It may be a problem in a small garden. Swamp Milkweed may be a better choice.

Swamp Milkweed, (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Does not spread to the extent that Common Milkweed does. May be better for a small garden. Can tolerate moisture, unlike the others, so can be used near ponds, in rain gardens and waterlogged



Photo: Monarch Watch

Butterfly-Weed,

Deer eat Butterfly-Weed. It needs to be planted in a fenced-in area.



Photo: Monarch Watch

If you plant native flowers ... pollinators will come!

Besides monarchs other pollinators are also disappearing due to habitat loss. The loss is no small matter. Insects help the web of life with essential services, and they are a prime source of food for birds. Some 80 percent of our food crops are pollinated by insects. “All of them are in trouble.” Marla Spivak, Professor of Apiculture, University of Minnesota.

How to Plant Milkweeds

- Plant in full sun ... in well-drained soil. Prepare your planting area before the plugs arrive.
- Plant about 12 to 18 inches apart.
- Plant a little on the high side...don’t cover the top of the plug...don’t bury the leaves.
- Common Milkweed needs a bigger hole than other milkweed.
- Don’t fertilize or spray with pesticides.
- We expect the plugs to be delivered in early June and should be planted as soon as possible for greatest success. Milkweed can be planted any-time until mid-summer. If planted early the roots can develop. Otherwise you will need to water the plant regularly during the first summer.
- Milkweed can also be planted in the fall.

When to Mow

- Preferred: Don’t mow at all!
- If you have to mow: Do it once a year in the late fall or late winter.
- If woody shrubs start to grow in your planting area: Mow 1/3 of the field each year.



Photo: Kate Hyden

Native Nectar-Producing Plants

A few examples of native plants are:

Aster *Aster novi-belgii* or *A. novae-angliae*
 Bee-balm & Wild Bergamot *Monarda*
 Boneset & Joe-pye Weeds *Eupatorium*
 Golden Groundsel *Senecio* or *Packera*
 Ironweed *Vernonia*
 Mountain Mint *Pycnanthemum*
 Sundrops *Oenothera*

Carolyn Summers, our consultant, has compiled a larger list of native plants. The list, Recommended Native Plants for Gardeners, is available on the “Milkweed for Monarchs” page on the SCAS website.