

MILKWEED for MONARCHS!



Monarch butterfly species are critical pollinators that increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native plants. Populations are continuing to decline at alarming rates.



What are the concerns?

Loss of habitat and nectar-producing plants as well as climate change are causing the decline in pollinators. Increased urban development and recent changes to agricultural practices in Iowa are some of the contributors to the decline in Monarch populations. Butterflies need connected corridors of habitat to move between food sources. Monarchs in particular need nectar and host

plants such as milkweed as a food source and for reproduction. Milkweed is a native prairie plant that is in short supply along with other prairie species. Native prairie plants not only benefit butterflies but also help improve soil health. The Rainscaping connection to healthy habitat.

- Plant milkweed and other nectar-producing native plants in your gardens
- Create habitat for butterflies and other pollinators
- Enjoy butterflies and improved soil health

How can you help?



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You can help protect monarch butterflies that are critical pollinators. They help increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native Iowa prairie and woodland plants.

Plants that butterflies love



Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias Incarnata*)



Blazing Star (*Liatris*)



Ironweed (*Vernonia*)



Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

- Grow milkweed plants in your flower gardens or add them to your prairie or grasslands. Milkweed can be found where native Iowa plants are sold. Visit www.monarchwatch.org to apply for a FREE flat of 32 milkweed plugs (schools and non-profits only)
- Plant nectar-flowering plants such as butterfly or swamp milkweed and blazing star in your native plant gardens, prairies, rain gardens, bioretention cells, bioswales and other stormwater green infrastructure practices. They not only provide habitat for monarchs, but also the deep plant roots create greater pore space in the soil which helps soil health.
- Decrease the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. Use only what you need.
- Encourage others to use these practices as well.

Create Habitat for butterflies and improve soil quality

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