

Guidelines for a Monarch Friendly Garden

Size. You can create a Monarch habitat into an existing garden. A minimum of at least 100 square feet is good. The total area may be split among several discrete sites at your location and there is no upper limit for the size of a Monarch friendly gardens habitat.

Exposure. Butterflies and butterfly plants need lots of sun; therefore, Monarch Friendly gardens need to be located in an area that receives at least six hours of sun a day.

Drainage and Soil Type. Milkweeds and nectar plants will do best in relatively light (low-clay) soils. Good drainage is needed to avoid root rot and provide good aeration of the roots.

Shelter. To assure that the maximum number of monarchs survive in your habitat, the plants should be relatively close together. However, they should not be crowded – be sure to follow the planting guides specific to each plant. All monarch life stages need shelter from predators and the elements. Planting milkweeds and nectar plants close together contributes to this shelter for monarchs and other wildlife.

Milkweed Plants. To maximize the use of your habitat by monarchs, we recommend that you have at least 10 milkweed plants, made up of two or more species; however, a large number of plants (more than 10) of one species is sufficient. Milkweeds of different species mature and flower at different times during the season. By increasing the number of milkweed species in your habitat you will increase the likelihood that monarchs will utilize your property for a longer period during the breeding season.

Michigan Home Gardener:

RECOMMENDED HOME GARDEN MILKWEED PLANTS FOR THE MONARCHS TO LAY THEIR EGGS

Butterfly Milkweed - Orange Blossoms - 1'-3' tall - Full sun

Rose Milkweed - Deer resistant - Beautiful Pink Blossoms- 3'-4' tall - Full-partial sun

Excerpts from monarchwatch.org/waystations/

Where to buy native Milkweed plants:

Wiegand's Nursery & Garden Center

47747 Romeo Plank Rd, Macomb, Michigan 48044

<http://www.wiegandsnursery.com/>

Foglers Farms

3979 N. Rochester Rd., Rochester, MI 48306

<https://foglersgreenhouse.com/>

Wildtype

<https://www.wildtypeplants.com/>

Michigan Wildflower Farm

<https://www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com>

Unlike the others, they sell seeds & seed mixes with MI native plant genotypes.

Milkweed Online Source

<http://shop.milkweedmarket.org/>

Type in your zip code and the plants will show up to shop for.