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To Become a Monarch Waystation:

You will first need a “garden” that consists of nectar and host plants, which are specific for monarchs. Below is some basic information to get started, from the monarch watch website:

<http://monarchwatch.org>

Creating a Butterfly Garden

Plants to attract butterflies

Butterflies feed on nectar, and good sources of this food will attract them to your garden. Include flowers that bloom at different times so that your garden provides nectar from spring through autumn. When you plan your garden, place short species in front and tall ones in back, and clump them by species and color. As butterflies search for food, they will see large splashes of color more easily than the small points of individual flowers. Butterflies are particularly attracted to red, orange, yellow, and purple flowers. Avoid big showy flowers bred for their size; they are often poor nectar sources. Don't be disappointed if butterflies ignore some highly recommended plants. Watch the butterflies, record their preferences, and plant more of the popular species next year.

Butterflies require very specific plants as larvae, and females will lay their eggs only on these plants. For example, you will only get monarch larvae if your garden contains milkweed. Remember, the purpose of these plants is to serve as a food source for the caterpillars. You are planting them to be eaten by the caterpillars, and eaten leaves are good signs of your garden's health.

Garden Maintenance

As you maintain your garden, **DO NOT USE ANY PESTICIDES OR INSECTICIDES** on or near your garden. Insecticides kill butterflies too. If you spray nearby areas, the insecticide may drift into your butterfly garden. Planting a diversity of species will keep pest levels down, but sometimes it's best just to tolerate a few pests. Avoiding insecticides also allows the populations of natural predators to increase, and these hunters will help reduce the number of unwanted pests.

Enjoy!

Enjoy your garden. Butterflies pay less attention to people than do birds, so you can sit nearby and watch without disturbing them. If you wear bright colors, they may even mistake you for a nectar source and visit you up close!



SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR YOUR GARDEN.

- 1- Location, the plants will need 6 hours to full sun. A source to water the garden and make a puddling area (more details on puddling station below)
- 2- Soil, if you are installing an in-ground garden, amend the soil with organic completed compost and possibly expanded shale (a one-time amendment)
- 3- Design, there is no right or wrong way to design a garden. You can make plant placement in groups, by the plants that are specific for each butterfly, intersperse host plants, place the tall plants in the back, short or trailing plants in the front.
- 4- Plant, once the plants are in the ground water thoroughly and mulch (hardwood native mulch if available) at least 2 inches

Specific host plants for Monarchs :

Milkweed native

Antelope Horns-*Asclepias asperula*, Green Antelopehorn-*Asclepias viridis*.

Common Milkweed-*Asclepias Syriaca*, Butterfly Milkweed-*Asclepias tuberosa*,

There is also tropical milkweed – *Asclepias Curassavica*, not a native, but easy to grow and the seeds are fun to collect. The plant can be maintained in a pot or the ground.

These plants will also attract a few look-alikes, the Queen and Soldier Butterflies

Specific Nectar Plants: Any of the following will attract pollinators

Texas urticoides - Texas lantana, other varieties are good also, there is a trailing variety

Salvia greggii, red, pink, orange – goes by many names, Autumn Sage, Lipstick Sage, Cherry Sage

Pentas lanceolata: Penta, annual in many colors

For fall: *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* - Fall asters, *Verbesina virginica* - Frostweed (up 10 ft tall)

General Nectar Plants

Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)

Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Tithonia Torch, Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*)

Zinnia, Dahlia Mix (*Zinnia elegans*)



Providing a puddling station

Pollinators will enjoy a sandy wet area with water. One example:

<http://www.birdsandblooms.com/blog/butterflypuddlingspot/>



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Once you have your garden, apply for Monarch Waystation Certification:



Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. <http://www.monarchwatch.org/index.html>

The Monarch Waystation Program information site:

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

You can purchase a Monarch waystation seed kit:

http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/seed_kit.html

How to register & certify your Monarch Waystation Site:

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>