



Monarch Waystations and Habitats

Helpful information to create and maintain your personal Monarch habitats. Use these materials and concepts to produce a flourishing butterfly waystation.

Size:

- At least 100 square feet.
- Total area can be split into several areas.

Location:

- Needs area with lots of sunshine for plants and butterflies.
- At least six hours of sun a day.
- Area with good soil moisture drainage.

Shelter

- Plant milkweed 1-2 feet apart.
- Plant nectar flowers as specified on seed packets.
- Flowers should be close, but not crowded.

Milkweed Plants

- Plant at least 10 milkweed plants.
- Plant at least two species of milkweed (they mature and flower at different times).
- This will ensure they stay at your location longer during the breeding season.

Nectar Plants

- Should contain several annual, biennial, or perennial plants.
- Use plants that bloom at different times.

Management

- Eliminate insecticide and pesticide use.
- Remove invasive plants and dead stalks.
- Utilize mulching, fertilizing, tilling, amending the soil, watering, etc.

Additional Tips

- Wait till the last possible moment each spring to cut back your plants so you don't disturb the insects.



- They usually wake in March and April.
- Adults lay eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves.
- Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed leaves.
- Adult monarchs get their energy from sipping nectar.
- Butterflies like moisture. Create a few shallow divots in the bare soil and keep them moist. Or you can incorporate an area you keep moist by placing small rocks or shallow dishes near nectar sources in the sun.
- Placing large flat rocks in the morning sunlight will give butterflies a place to warm up. They won't fly when they are cold.
- You should water your habitat every day.

Plants for Our Area:

- Milkweed
 - Antelope Horn Milkweed
 - Green Antelope Horn Milkweed
 - Zizotes Milkweed
- Nectar Plants
 - Frostweed
 - Texas lantana
 - Duranta (Brazilian skyflower)
 - Goldenrod
 - Autumn Sage
 - Late Flowering Boneset
 - Aster
 - Cowpen Daisy
 - Gregg's Bluemist
 - Turk's Cap
 - Purple Coneflower
 - Butterfly Weed
 - Zexmenia
 - Rock Rose
 - Texas Aster
 - Salvia