

## M O N A R C H W A Y S T A T I O N C E R T I F I C A T I O N R E Q U I R E M E N T S

If your monarch habitat site meets or exceeds the general description of a Monarch Waystation set forth below, your site may be certified and registered. Upon certification your site will be included in the International Monarch Waystation Registry, an online listing of Monarch Waystations, and you will be awarded a certificate bearing your name and your site's unique Monarch Waystation ID number. You will also become eligible to purchase a weatherproof Monarch Waystation sign to display at your site, indicating that you have created a habitat for monarch butterflies.

**Size.** There is no upper limit for the size of a Monarch Waystation, but approximately 15 square yards (135 sq feet) should be considered the minimum area required for an effective Monarch Waystation. A suitable monarch habitat can be easily integrated with an existing garden.

**Exposure.** Butterflies and butterfly plants need lots of sun; therefore, monarch habitats 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 and Density of Planting.** 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. Monarch eggs, larvae, pupae, and even adults, can become food for many other species; planting milkweeds and nectar plants close to each other provides more shelter for all life stages.

**Milkweed Plants.** To maximize the utilization of your habitat by monarchs, it is desirable to cultivate a number of milkweed species. It is useful to have at least 10 plants of two or more species. However, if you have a large number of plants (10 or more) of one species, you will have created a monarch habitat. 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 possibilities that monarchs will utilize your property for a longer period during the breeding season.

**Nectar Plants.** Monarchs, other butterflies, and numerous pollinators need nectar. By providing nectar sources that bloom sequentially during the season (or continuously) as many butterfly plants do, your Monarch Waystation can provide resources for monarchs throughout the breeding season and the migration in the fall. A Monarch Waystation should contain at least 4 plants (annual or perennial) that provide nectar for butterflies.

In addition to the above characteristics for a Monarch Waystation, you should also have a plan to sustain the monarch habitat. You can get an idea of what we consider to be sustainable management practices from the questions posed on the application form.

**A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M O N A R C H W A Y S T A T I O N C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

Please fill out all pages (3) of this form completely and mail or fax to: Monarch Watch c/o Home Earth, 3515 Silverside Road, Suite 203, Wilmington, DE 19810, 1-877-687-4878 fax. A non-refundable \$12 application fee is required for each Monarch Waystation you would like to certify. At this time, please allow 3-6 weeks for processing. Additional forms and other materials are available at [www.MonarchWatch.org/ws](http://www.MonarchWatch.org/ws) • **PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE** •

Address of Monarch Waystation Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) exactly as you would like it/them to appear on certificate:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions concerning your Monarch Waystation.**

**GENERAL LOCATION OF MONARCH WAYSTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Urban      \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban      \_\_\_\_\_ Rural

**SPECIFIC LOCATION OF MONARCH WAYSTATION:**

_____ Home	_____ School
_____ Business	_____ Municipal Garden/Park
_____ Nature Center/Zoo	_____ Retirement Home
_____ Golf Course	_____ Farm
_____ Place of Worship	_____ Other (please specify) _____

**SIZE OF MONARCH WAYSTATION (approximate):**

_____ < 25 sq yards (< 225 sq ft)	_____ 25-50 sq yards (225-450 sq ft)
_____ 50-100 sq yards (450-900 sq ft)	_____ 100-500 sq yards (900-4,500 sq ft)
_____ 500-1000 sq yards (4,500-9,000 sq ft)	_____ > 1000 sq yards (> 9,000 sq ft)

**H O S T P L A N T S F O R M O N A R C H S ( p l e a s e i n d i c a t e n u m b e r o f p l a n t s a t s i t e )**

- \_\_\_\_\_ B u t t e r f l y w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s t u b e r o s a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ C o m m o n m i l k w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s s y r i a c a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ S w a m p m i l k w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s i n c a r n a t a s u b s p . i n c a r n a t a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ S h o w y m i l k w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s s p e c i o s a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ S w a m p m i l k w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s i n c a r n a t a s u b s p . p u l c h r a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ T r o p i c a l m i l k w e e d ( *A s c l e p i a s c u r a s s a v i c a* )
- \_\_\_\_\_ O t h e r A s c l e p i a s - p l e a s e p r o v i d e c o m m o n n a m e ( s ) \_\_\_\_\_

**N E C T A R P L A N T S ( p l e a s e i n d i c a t e n u m b e r o f p l a n t s a t s i t e )**

**A n n u a l s**

- \_\_\_\_\_ M e x i c a n S u n f l o w e r
- \_\_\_\_\_ L a n t a n a
- \_\_\_\_\_ P e n t a s
- \_\_\_\_\_ Z i n n i a
- \_\_\_\_\_ P o r t e r w e e d
- \_\_\_\_\_ I r o n w e e d
- \_\_\_\_\_ O t h e r s ( l i s t ) \_\_\_\_\_

**P e r e n n i a l s**

- \_\_\_\_\_ V e r b e n a
- \_\_\_\_\_ B u d d l e i a
- \_\_\_\_\_ C a r y o p t e r i s
- \_\_\_\_\_ V i t e x
- \_\_\_\_\_ G o l d e n r o d
- \_\_\_\_\_ G a y f e a t h e r
- \_\_\_\_\_ O t h e r s ( l i s t ) \_\_\_\_\_

**S H E L T E R**

All monarch life stages need shelter from predators. In the context of a butterfly habitat, shelter is provided by the variety of the plants and the density, or closeness, of the plantings.

Please estimate the number of milkweed and nectar plants (combined) per square yard (3' x 3' area) in your habitat. Depending on the species and the size of the plants, densities of 2-10 plants per square yard are probably most effective.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1      \_\_\_\_\_ 2-5      \_\_\_\_\_ 6-10      \_\_\_\_\_ 11-20      \_\_\_\_\_ > 20

**S U S T A I N A B L E M A N A G E M E N T P R A C T I C E S :**

M a i n t a i n i n g p r o d u c t i v e m o n a r c h h a b i t a t s r e q u i r e s a m a n a g e m e n t p l a n . P l e a s e i n d i c a t e w h i c h a c t i o n s y o u h a v e t a k e n ( o r w i l l t a k e ) i n r e g a r d s t o y o u r M o n a r c h W a y s t a t i o n :

\_\_\_\_\_ M u l c h a r o u n d t h e b a s e o f p l a n t s t o r e d u c e t h e g r o w t h o f w e e d s a n d r e t a i n w a t e r

\_\_\_\_\_ M a n a g e t h e d e n s i t y o f t h e p l o t b y t h i n n i n g ( r e m o v e p l a n t s t o m i n i m i z e c r o w d i n g )

\_\_\_\_\_ U s e n a t u r a l c o m p o s t f o r f e r t i l i z a t i o n

\_\_\_\_\_ A m e n d t h e s o i l t o a c h i e v e a c h e m i c a l b a l a n c e b e f o r e p l a n t i n g

R e m o v e d e a d s t a l k s , e t c . b e f o r e t h e n e x t g r o w i n g s e a s o n :

\_\_\_\_\_ b y m o w i n g

\_\_\_\_\_ b y b u r n i n g

\_\_\_\_\_ b y h a n d

\_\_\_\_\_ W a t e r t h e p l o t a s n e e d e d t o m a i n t a i n g r o w t h

\_\_\_\_\_ E l i m i n a t e t h e u s e o f i n s e c t i c i d e s

\_\_\_\_\_ R e m o v e i n v a s i v e s p e c i e s f r o m t h e s i t e

\_\_\_\_\_ A d d o t h e r f e a t u r e s ( e . g . , f r u i t f e e d e r s , b e e n e s t i n g b o x e s , o t h e r h o s t p l a n t s , e t c . )

**A D D I T I O N A L C O M M E N T S A B O U T Y O U R M O N A R C H W A Y S T A T I O N**

P l e a s e p r o v i d e a n y a d d i t i o n a l i n f o r m a t i o n t h a t y o u r w o u l d l i k e t o s h a r e a b o u t y o u r m o n a r c h h a b i t a t s i t e b e l o w . O n c e y o u r e c e i v e y o u r M o n a r c h W a y s t a t i o n I D ( s ) y o u w i l l b e a b l e t o s u b m i t p h o t o s o f y o u r W a y s t a t i o n ( s ) t o b e i n c l u d e d i n t h e o n l i n e R e g i s t r y .

**P A Y M E N T I N F O R M A T I O N**

A s m e n t i o n e d a b o v e , a n o n - r e f u n d a b l e \$ 1 2 a p p l i c a t i o n p r o c e s s i n g f e e i s r e q u i r e d f o r e a c h M o n a r c h W a y s t a t i o n y o u w o u l d l i k e t o c e r t i f y . P l e a s e c o m p l e t e p a y m e n t i n f o r m a t i o n b e l o w .

M e t h o d : \_\_\_\_\_ C h e c k ( c h e c k n u m b e r : \_\_\_\_\_ ) ; \_\_\_\_\_ P u r c h a s e O r d e r ( P O # \_\_\_\_\_ ) ;

\_\_\_\_\_ C r e d i t C a r d ( c i r c l e t y p e : V i s a • M a s t e r C a r d • A m e r i c a n E x p r e s s • D i s c o v e r )

C a r d N u m b e r \_\_\_\_\_ E x p i r a t i o n d a t e : \_\_\_\_\_

B i l l i n g N a m e : \_\_\_\_\_

B i l l i n g A d d r e s s : \_\_\_\_\_

C i t y , S t a t e / P r o v i n c e , Z i p / P o s t a l C o d e : \_\_\_\_\_

T e l e p h o n e : \_\_\_\_\_

E - M a i l A d d r e s s : \_\_\_\_\_

KU Home > KU News >

## KU News Release

April 21, 2005

Contact: Dan Lara, University Relations, (785) 864-8855.

### **KU researcher plans national effort to create 'waystations' for monarchs**

LAWRENCE -- University of Kansas ecology professor Orley "Chip" Taylor is starting a national effort to create 10,000 "monarch waystations" over the next three years to help preserve the dwindling numbers of monarch butterflies in the United States.

"We need a large-scale effort to help preserve the monarch," said Taylor, who serves as director of Monarch Watch, an outreach organization based at KU that is dedicated to tracking the monarch's migration and conserving its habitats. "The idea is to get everyone who is interested in the monarch butterfly and those interested in gardening to create monarch habitats."



Photo by Marty N. Davis

These habitats contain milkweeds and nectar plants, Taylor said. Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed plants, and larvae use the plants to feed until they become adult butterflies. The adult butterflies feed by obtaining nectar from flowers.

Taylor wants the public to create waystations, which he named after the stops used by steam engines and the Pony Express in the 19th century, to help stabilize and preserve the monarch.

"Steam engines needed stops to pick up water and coal," he said. "The Pony Express riders needed stops to pick up food and fresh horses. The same principle applies with the monarch. The monarch needs resources and places across the continent to breed and sustain its migration."

Taylor is one of the nation's leading experts on monarchs and has studied them since 1992. Monarch Watch has tracked the annual migrations of monarchs between the United States and Mexico for 14 years, an effort that has involved hundreds of thousands of volunteers across North America.

The monarch population has declined since its peak in 1996, Taylor said. Urban sprawl and the use of herbicide-resistant crops, plus an unusually cool summer in 2004, caused the monarch population to shrink to one-tenth its size compared to its peak and one-fourth its size during an average year.

In fact, the monarch population in Mexico was so low last winter that it may take some time to recover. The monarchs began their spring migration from their winter habitats in Mexico north to the United States in March, but early reports from Southern states indicate the migration is not off to a good start, Taylor said.

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In recent years, development, especially in prime monarch breeding grounds of the upper Midwest of the United States, is eliminating habitats for monarchs. According to the American Farmland Trust, farm and ranch land is disappearing at the rate of 3,000 acres per day or 1.2 million acres per year. During a five-year period starting in 1992, 6 million acres of farmland -- an area the size of Maryland -- were converted into subdivisions and other developments.

Widespread adoption of herbicide-resistant soybeans and corn in the past five years has resulted in the loss of at least 80 million acres of monarch habitat, Taylor said. In the past, farmers used tilling to control weeds, which always left enough milkweeds and nectar plants around for monarchs to sustain themselves. With herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans, however, farmers spray herbicides more liberally, leaving far fewer milkweeds and nectar plants available for monarchs.

To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar plants, Monarch Watch wants individuals across the nation to create Monarch Waystations as a way to preserve these key sources of food. Waystations can be created in home gardens, schools, parks, zoos, nature centers or anywhere there are unused plots of land.

"This effort won't replace the amount of milkweed that has been lost or even keep pace with the habitat losses each year," Taylor said. "On the other hand, waystations will get the public involved in the conservation effort and hopefully these people will educate their fellow citizens. We are losing wildlife habitat at an incredible rate, and we have to do something about it to avoid losing the monarch butterfly."

Monarch Watch has developed a waystation kit that includes information about how to create the best habitat for monarchs. The kit contains seeds for milkweeds and nectar plants. The kits are available for a small fee by going to <http://www.monarchwatch.org/ws> or calling (800) 780-9986.

Individuals who create waystations can have them officially certified by Monarch Watch, Taylor said. Upon certification, the sites will be included in the international Monarch Waystation Registry (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/ws>). Those people or organizations with certified monarch habitats are eligible to display a sign indicating they have created a monarch waystation and are contributing to monarch conservation.

"The sign helps convey the conservation message to those who visit your waystation and may encourage them to create their own monarch habitat," Taylor said.

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The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research and teaching university. University Relations is the central public relations office for KU's Lawrence campus.

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