

Certify Your Monarch Waystation

To show that you are contributing to monarch conservation, you may choose to have your new or existing monarch habitat certified as an official Monarch Waystation. Upon certification your site will be included in the International Monarch Waystation Registry, an online database of Monarch Waystations, and you will be awarded a certificate bearing your site's Monarch Waystation ID number. Furthermore, you become eligible to display a weatherproof sign that identifies your monarch habitat as an official Monarch Waystation. This display helps convey the conservation message to those who visit your Monarch Waystation and may encourage them to create their own monarch habitat.

MONARCH WAYSTATION



This site provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America.

Certified and registered by Monarch Watch as an official Monarch Waystation.

CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS

WWW.MONARCHWATCH.ORG

Monarch Watch • University of Kansas • Entomology Program • 1200 Sunnyside Ave. • Lawrence, KS 66045-7534

Complete, up-to-date information about Monarch Watch's Monarch Waystation program, including:

- Certification Guidelines & Application
 - Monarch Waystation Seed Kits
 - Brochures & Guides
- Monarch Waystation Registry
- Additional Support Materials

is available online at

www.MonarchWatch.org/ws

or by writing to us at

Monarch Watch

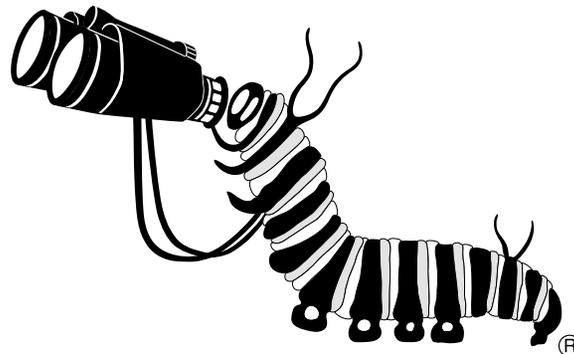
University of Kansas

1200 Sunnyside Avenue

Lawrence, KS 66045

Visit us online for more monarch & monarch habitat information, community forums, monthly updates, promotional & educational items, and a whole lot more:

www.MonarchWatch.org



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This brochure is also available in PDF format (suitable for online viewing and printing) at www.MonarchWatch.org/ws

Monarchs Need Our Help!



Get involved in monarch conservation by creating a **Monarch Waystation.**

A waystation is an intermediate station between principal stations on a line of travel. If we imagine the principal stations for monarchs to be the overwintering sites in Mexico and the points of reproduction in the breeding season, then it becomes easy for us to visualize the value of resource-rich waystations along the monarch's route through its annual fall and spring migrations. Without resources - in the form of nectar from flowers - fall migratory butterflies would be unable to make the journey to Mexico. Similarly, without milkweeds along the entire route north in the spring and summer months, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall.

M onarchs Resources are D eclin ing

M ilkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Because 90% of all milkweed / monarch habitats occur within the agricultural landscape, farm practices have the potential to strongly influence monarch populations. Why we are concerned:

- Farm and ranch land is disappearing at rate of nearly 3,000 acres per day. In a 5-year period starting in 1992, 6 million acres of farmland (an area the size of the state of Maryland) were converted to subdivisions, factories, and other developments (www.farmland.org).
- Widespread adoption of herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans in the last 5 years has resulted in the loss of at least 80 million acres of monarch habitat.
- Use of herbicides along roadsides continues to reduce milkweeds and nectar plants.

D evelopment

We are all familiar with development in and around our cities - farm and ranch land is being converted to houses, factories, shopping centers and parking lots. It is the scale of these changes that is alarming - 3,000 acres a day adds up quickly! The rate of change was greater in the 1990s than in the 1980s and it is probably even greater today. Urban sprawl, especially in the eastern half of the country, is eliminating habitats for monarchs and displacing wildlife.

G enetically M odified (G M) C rops

The planting of crops genetically modified to resist the herbicide glyphosphate (most com-

monly known by the brand name Roundup®) allows growers to spray fields of young soybeans or corn with this herbicide instead of tilling to control weeds. Milkweeds survive tilling but not the repeated use of glyphosphate. In fact, before the adoption of these GM crops, surveys in several states revealed that croplands with modest numbers of milkweeds produced more monarchs per unit area than other monarch habitats. The loss of milkweeds in these row crops is significant, considering that these croplands represent more than 30% of the total summer breeding area for monarchs.

R oadsid e M anagem ent

The use of herbicides and frequent mowing along roadsides has converted much of this habitat to grasslands - a habitat generally lacking in food and shelter for wildlife. These habitats constitute 2-4% of the land area throughout the monarch's summer breeding range. Although some states have started to increase the diversity of plantings along roadsides, including milkweeds, these programs are small.

Unfortunately, the remaining milkweed habitats - pastures, hayfields, edges of forests, grasslands, native prairies, and urban areas - are not sufficient to sustain the large monarch populations seen in the 1990s. Monarchs need our help.

W hat W e C an D o

To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar sources due to development, use of herbicides, and roadside management practices, we need to create, conserve, and protect milkweed / monarch habitats. Monarchs need resource patches - lots of them - and our goal over the next three years is the creation of at

least 10,000 of these patches, which we are calling "Monarch Waystations". We need you to help us and help monarchs by creating Monarch Waystations in home gardens, schools, parks, zoos, nature centers, field margins, along roadsides, and on other 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; however, without a major effort to restore milkweeds to as many locations as possible, the monarch population is certain to decline to extremely low levels.

In addition to creating monarch habitats in those areas each of us controls, we need to lobby on behalf of monarchs - to persuade our schools, nature centers, municipalities, and departments of transportation (DOTs) in each state to also create these habitats. Creation of restored habitats that support monarchs and other wildlife will save money at all levels of government charged with maintaining roadsides and public lands. The increasing cost of energy is putting a strain on all budgets. We need to encourage our officials to create habitats and save money by eliminating unnecessary mowing and use of herbicides.

T he V alue of M onarch W aystation s

By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation you are contributing to monarch conservation and are helping to assure the continuation of the monarch migration in North America. Your efforts will also provide habitats for other species, including many pollinators - a rapidly declining and underappreciated, yet important, group of species. By educating others about monarchs and the need to provide habitats for wildlife you will help raise the public's awareness of important conservation issues.