



Monarch Action List

What can you do to help increase the abundance of monarchs?

1. Become involved

- a. Plant and protect native milkweeds and nectar plants, while making sure that the plants you transplant or plant as seeds are native to your region. Use locally sourced material when possible. Avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides on or near these plants.
- b. Advocate for monarch conservation. Educate others. Write to and speak with school and citizen groups about the importance of maintaining natural habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Share your enthusiasm. (*See **Learn More** below for sources of information.*)
- c. Reach out to your local media and spread the word.
- d. Urge the following and similar groups to create milkweed/monarch/pollinator habitats and promote the conservation of monarchs and other pollinators:
 - ✦ Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, and 4-H
 - ✦ schools and non-profits such as nature centers and churches
 - ✦ garden clubs, horticultural societies, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists
 - ✦ administrators of city gardens and parks
 - ✦ garden centers, landscaping firms, and businesses sensitive to their public image
- e. Support organizations whose missions favor activities that support native landscapes, including milkweed/monarch/pollinator habitat. There are many such organizations, and the following is just a sample; look especially for organizations active in your area.
 - ✦ land trusts
 - ✦ native plant societies, e.g., Wild Ones (<http://www.wildones.org/>), Texas Native Plant Society (<http://npsot.org/>)
 - ✦ prairie and grassland preservation organizations, e.g., Missouri Prairie Foundation (<http://www.moprairie.org/>)
 - ✦ Pheasants Forever (<http://www.pheasantsforever.org/>)
 - ✦ The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/>)
 - ✦ Pollinator Partnership (<http://www.pollinator.org/>)
 - ✦ Ontario Nature (<http://www.ontarionature.org/>) and other regional groups
 - ✦ Ducks Unlimited (<https://www.ducks.org/>)
 - ✦ any other organizations that promote land preservation, restoration, or protection
- f. Encourage repeal of laws that require manicured home gardens and lawns.

2. Provide financial support

Donate money to organizations that work to sustain monarch habitat and the monarch migration. Numerous organizations are worthy of support, including all those listed below. Go to their web sites to learn more about each and look periodically for updates about their activities. Please consider supporting the [Monarch Butterfly Fund](#), which works to preserve monarchs and their spectacular migration through a conservation strategy that fosters healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities in and near the Mexican overwintering colonies.

Monarch Butterfly Fund (<http://www.monarchbutterflyfund.org/>)



Monarch Action List

3. Learn more

The following organizations all provide very helpful and useful information. Please learn from their web sites and consider supporting these organizations financially.

- a. In addition to learning from the first set of organizations, you can participate in their citizen science programs to contribute to research about monarchs:

- ✦ Journey North (<http://journeynorth.org>)
- ✦ Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (<http://www.mlmp.org/>)
- ✦ Monarch Monitoring Project (<http://www.monarchmonitoringproject.com/>)
- ✦ Project Monarch Health (<http://monarchparasites.org>)
- ✦ Monarch Watch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>)
- ✦ Southwest Monarch Study (<http://www.swmonarchs.org/>)

- b. The following are also excellent organizations with informative web sites.

- ✦ Monarch Joint Venture (<http://monarchjointventure.org/>)
- ✦ Monarch Butterfly Recovery Plan (<http://monarchwatch.org/blog/>)
- ✦ Creating habitat (<http://www.plantmilkweed.org>)
- ✦ Monarch Conservation Talking Points
(http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/MonCons_talking_points.pdf)
- ✦ Monarch Butterfly Fund (<http://www.monarchbutterflyfund.org/>)
- ✦ Make Way for Monarchs (<http://makewayformonarchs.org/i/>)
- ✦ Xerces Society (<http://www.xerces.org/monarchs/>)
- ✦ David Suzuki Foundation (<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/media/news/2014/04/got-milkweed/>)

4. Become active politically

Communicate with local, state, and national political leaders in person or by letter to:

- ✦ Advocate for a tax incentive for landowners to set aside acreage for growth of native plants.
- ✦ Advocate for increasing the acreage maintained in USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>)
- ✦ Ask highway departments and utilities to reduce the frequency of mowing of road edges, power lines, and rights-of-ways where milkweeds and wildflowers grow, and promote a single mowing in mid-summer to increase milkweed regrowth for monarch reproduction; advocate for reduced herbicide and insecticide spraying. Millions of miles of roadsides in the eastern U.S. could provide beneficial habitat for monarchs.
- ✦ Oppose federal subsidies for production of corn ethanol so there is less pressure for converting land from other uses to intensive agriculture (changes to the U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills).
- ✦ Write county, state, and federal agencies urging protection of existing milkweed/monarch/pollinator habitats and advocate restoration of native plants (including milkweeds) in those areas from which they have been extirpated.
- ✦ Advocate for reduced herbicide use in agriculture. Talk to local farmers and recommend herbicide free portions of their fields.

These recommendations were compiled from suggestions made by Alfonso Alonso, Lincoln Brower, Don Davis, Gail Morris, Karen Oberhauser, Chip Taylor, and Ernest Williams. Anyone may add to, modify, or use this list to promote the conservation of monarch butterflies.