



# 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. Urge the following and similar groups to create milkweed/monarch/pollinator habitat and promote the conservation of monarchs and other pollinators:
  - ✦ schools and non-profits such as nature centers and churches
  - ✦ Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, and 4-H
  - ✦ 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
- d. 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/wp/>)
  - ✦ prairie and grassland preservation organizations, e.g., Missouri Prairie Foundation (<http://www.moprairie.org/>)
  - ✦ habitat-focused hunter organizations, e.g., Ducks Unlimited (<https://www.ducks.org/>), Pheasants, Quail Forever (<http://www.pheasantsforever.org/>), (<http://www.quailforever.org/>)
  - ✦ The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/>)
  - ✦ Pollinator Partnership (<http://www.pollinator.org/>)
  - ✦ Ontario Nature (<http://www.ontarionature.org/>) and other regional nature groups
  - ✦ any organizations that promote land preservation, restoration, or protection
- e. 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 under **Learn More**. 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](#), an organization that works to preserve monarchs and their spectacular migration by supporting habitat conservation, scientific research and monitoring, outreach and education, and sustainable development in and near the Mexican overwintering colonies.

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



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## 3. Learn more

A number of organizations provide very helpful and useful information, and one may learn from what they present on their websites. Please consider supporting these organizations financially.

a. The following have citizen science programs in which volunteers may participate in monarch research:

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

b. Excellent information is also provided by these organizations:

- ✦ Monarch Butterfly Fund (<http://www.monarchconservation.org/>)
- ✦ Monarch Joint Venture (<http://monarchjointventure.org/>)
- ✦ Monarch Net (<https://www.monarchnet.org/>)
- ✦ Xerces Society (<http://www.xerces.org/monarchs/>)
- ✦ David Suzuki Foundation (<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/>)

## 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 (<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>)
- ✦ 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. Promote mowing only before July 4th and after Labor Day to allow milkweed growth for monarch reproduction. Advocate for reduced herbicide and insecticide spraying. Millions of miles of roadsides and rights-of-ways 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 2018 Farm Bill).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Follow the federal listing of monarchs as a potentially threatened species.  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/17/2020-27523/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-12-month-finding-for-the-monarch-butterfly>

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.