



# MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

Partnering across the U.S. to conserve the monarch migration

[www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org)

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic programs that are working together to protect the monarch migration across the lower 48 United States.

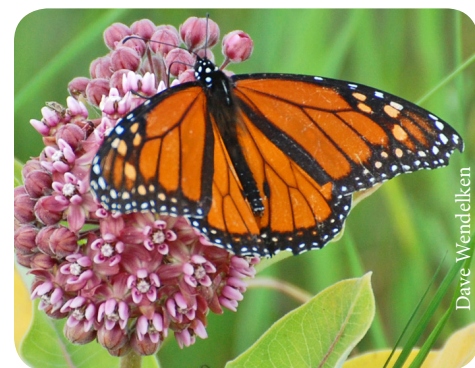
## PARTNERS

U.S. Forest Service  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife  
 Cibolo Nature Center  
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 Green Schools Alliance  
 Journey North  
 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
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 Pollinator Partnership  
 Southwest Monarch Study  
 Tallgrass Prairie Center  
 Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes  
 The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Monarch Joint Venture  
 University of Minnesota  
 Ph. 612.624.8706

## Plant Milkweed for Monarchs

Monarchs cannot survive without milkweed. Monarch caterpillars need milkweed plants (*Asclepias* spp.) to grow and develop, and female monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed. With shifting land management practices, we have lost much milkweed from the landscape. Please plant milkweed to support monarch populations, and their incredible migration! Planting milkweed is a great way to help other pollinators too, as milkweed provides nectar resources to a diverse suite of bees and butterflies.



Dave Wendelken

### Northeast Region Milkweed Species



**Common Milkweed**  
*Asclepias syriaca*  
 Well drained soils.  
 Photo by Louis-M. Landry



**Swamp Milkweed**  
*Asclepias incarnata*  
 Damp, marshy areas.  
 Photo by Janet Allen



**Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
 Well drained soils.  
 Photo by Thomas Muller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



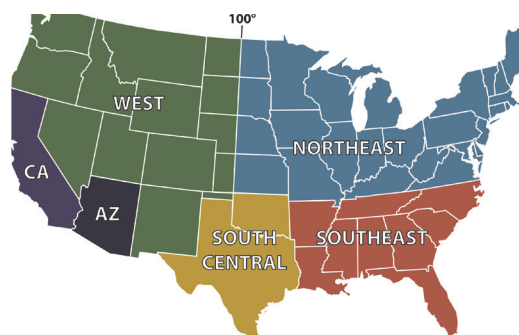
**Whorled Milkweed**  
*Asclepias verticillata*  
 Prairies and open areas.  
 Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



**Poke Milkweed**  
*Asclepias exaltata*  
 Woodland areas (except in NE, KS, MO, ND & SD).  
 Photo by David Smith

### Milkweed Regions

There are many native milkweed species in each of the six "Milkweed Regions" shown on this map. The species highlighted are known to be used by monarchs, and are easy to establish. Please try to find plants grown as close as possible to where you'll be planting them, and from the closest possible seed source.



### South Central Region Milkweed Species



**Green Antelopehorn Milkweed**  
*Asclepias viridis*  
 Dry areas and prairies. Also known as green milkweed.  
 Photo by Harlen Aschen



**Antelopehorns Milkweed**  
*Asclepias asperula*  
 Desert and sandy areas.  
 Photo by Kip Kiphart



**Zizotes Milkweed**  
*Asclepias oenotheroides*  
 Sandy/rocky prairies and fields.  
 Photo by Jennifer Kleinrichert

## Southeast Region Milkweed Species



**Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*

Well drained soils.  
Photo by Thomas Muller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



**Whorled Milkweed**  
*Asclepias verticillata*

Prairies and open areas.  
Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



**White Milkweed**  
*Asclepias variegata*

Thickets and Woodlands.  
Photo by Melton Wiggins



**Aquatic Milkweed**  
*Asclepias perennis*

Hydrated soils.  
Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



**Sandhill/Pinewoods Milkweed**  
*Asclepias humistrata*

For use in some regions of FL. Dry sandy areas and soils.  
Photo © Kim Davis and Mike Stangeland

Note: *Asclepias syriaca* and *Asclepias incarnata* are native to parts of this region and may also be suitable species to plant. More details on the native range of each species can be found at: <http://bonap.net/NAPA/TaxonMaps/Genus/County/Asclepias>

## Western Region Milkweed Species

NOTE: Excludes Arizona; see below for Arizona milkweed.



**Mexican Whorled Milkweed**  
*Asclepias fascicularis*

Dry climates and plains, except in CO, UT, NM & AZ.

Photo by Christopher Christie



**Showy Milkweed**  
*Asclepias speciosa*

Savannahs and prairies.

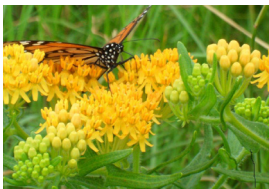
Photo by Robert Potts © California Academy of Sciences

### Selecting and Finding Milkweed Plants

While any of the species listed here can be grown in garden settings, please use species that are native to your county for larger restoration projects. You can find more information about milkweed, together with a directory of native plant vendors that sell milkweed plants and seeds, on our website:

[www.plantmilkweed.org](http://www.plantmilkweed.org)

## Arizona Milkweed Species



**Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*

Well drained soils.

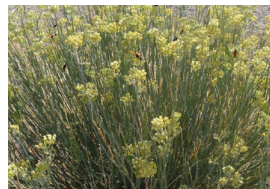
Photo by Gail Morris



**Antelopehorns Milkweed**  
*Asclepias asperula*

Desert and sandy areas.

Photo by Kip Kiphart



**Rush Milkweed**  
*Asclepias subulata*

Desert areas.

Photo by Gail Morris



**Arizona Milkweed**  
*Asclepias angustifolia*

Riparian areas and canyons.

Photo by Morris Family

## California Milkweed Species



**Mexican Whorled Milkweed**  
*Asclepias fascicularis*

Dry climates and plains.

Photo by Christopher Christie



**Showy Milkweed**  
*Asclepias speciosa*

Savannahs and prairies.

Photo by Robert Potts © California Academy of Sciences



**Desert Milkweed**  
*Asclepias erosa*

Desert regions.

Photo by Christopher Christie



**California Milkweed**  
*Asclepias californica*

Grassy areas.

Photo by Christopher Christie



**Heartleaf Milkweed**  
*Asclepias cordifolia*

Rocky slopes.

Photo by Dee E. Warencya



**Woolly Milkweed**  
*Asclepias vestita*

Dry deserts and plains.

Photo © 2010 Neal Kramer



**Woolly Pod Milkweed**  
*Asclepias eriocarpa*

Clay soils and dry areas.

Photo by Br. Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College



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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

\*Common names vary from place to place, so we have used the USDA names for consistency.