

RAY WIEGAND'S NURSERY

MONARCH WAYSTATION

information

WHY CREATE A MONARCH WAYSTATION?

The Monarch butterfly population has severely declined in recent years. Milkweeds and nectar plants are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Monarch Waystations are places that provide the host and nectar plants that are needed to produce successive generations of Monarchs and sustain their migration to their overwintering grounds in California and Mexico.

CREATING A MONARCH WAYSTATION

A suitable Monarch Waystation can be easily integrated into any landscape. There is no minimum requirement for size, however a truly effective habitat should be at least 100 square feet and can be split up into several locations in your yard including containers. It is necessary to include both host and nectar plants for your butterflies to thrive. Most butterfly plants need a sunny spot, and there are plants that prefer both well drained and moist soils.

HOST PLANTS

Monarch Butterflies lay their eggs on all species of Milkweed. It is best to have at least 10 plants, made up of two or more species; however, a large number of the same species is also acceptable. Milkweeds of different species mature and bloom at different times during the season, increasing the likelihood that Monarchs will use the Waystation for a longer period during the breeding season. The most common species available are:

Asclepias incarnata - Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Weed
Asclepias syriaca - Common Milkweed

NECTAR PLANTS

Monarchs, other butterflies and other pollinators need nectar. By providing nectar plants that bloom all summer or sequentially during the season, your Waystation will provide ample resources. Ideally, a way station should contain at least 4 species of nectar plants.

Some excellent choices for perennial nectar plants are:

PERENNIALS

Eutrochium purpureum - Joe Pye Weed
Salvia nemorosa - Garden Sage
Monarda didyma - Bee Balm
Liatris spicata - Gay Feather
Nepeta faassenii - Catmint
Echinacea purpurea - Coneflower
Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush

ANNUALS

Pentas
Lantana
Heliotrope
Celosia
Salvia
Verbena
Lobelia

To become a certified Waystation, or for more information please visit
www.MonarchWatch.org/waystations.