

Take advantage of Farm Bill programs to establish monarch breeding habitat. Increasing the number of milkweeds and nectar-producing plants is vitally important for monarch conservation. These efforts also benefit other pollinators and related wildlife conservation goals. *Contact your local USDA Service Center for more info and to learn about available programs at nrcs.usda.gov*

1

Establish monarch habitat on your land as part of a demonstration project.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and partners, through the Monarch Butterfly Flyway Project, are restoring/installing monarch habitat along three north-south migration corridors in Iowa. This project will partner to cost-share new pollinator seeding on public land or permanently protected private lands (conservation easements). *Contact Lhein@inhf.org for info.* Four additional grants exist for EQIP-eligible lands, bioreactors, and land near hog confinements. *Contact monarchs@iastate.edu to learn more.*

2

Follow federal pesticide labels and state regulations when applying pesticides labeled as toxic to bees to avoid unnecessary exposure to pollinators and monarchs. Adjust spray equipment to reduce drift by using low pressures, large droplets, and low boom heights. Avoid applications when wind speed is above 10 miles per hour or wind direction is toward monarch habitat. *More at epa.gov/pollinator-protection*

3

Consider monarch-friendly weed management recommendations for roadsides and other rights-of-way (ROWs).

Roadsides offer options for miles of monarch habitat (milkweed and nectar plants). Ask the Iowa DOT or your county roads department to avoid spraying or mowing your roadside, and for permission to plant or maintain native plants in your roadside. The Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program at UNI has no mow/no spray signs, FAQs for landowners, and Iowa's mowing law at: tallgrassprairiecenter.org/irvm-brochures

4

Establish a Monarch Waystation, a garden with both nectar plants and milkweeds, where monarchs can find nectar and reproduce. Monarchs lay eggs on milkweeds, the only food monarch caterpillars eat. Adults need flower nectar from spring to fall. *More at monarchwatch.org*

5



5 ways to help the monarchs

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium is a community-led group whose mission is to enhance monarch butterfly reproduction and survival through collaborative efforts of farmers, private citizens, and their organizations.

Habitat improvements in rural landscapes will target underutilized areas that do not conflict with agricultural production, are sufficient in scale to support improved monarch breeding success, and strive to complement other conservation programs. *More at iowamonarchs.info*



@IowaMonarchs

mighty monarchs

MIGRATORY PHENOMENON The annual North American monarch migration is one of the longest and most spectacular insect migrations globally. Until the 1970s, the eastern population's migration was clouded in mystery -- scientists didn't know where the monarchs spent the winter! They were finally discovered clustered in oyamel fir forests in the mountains of Michoacán, in Mexico.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS Blank Park Zoo created the Plant.Grow.Fly. program with region-specific garden recipes to help you plant the flowers and grasses that our native butterflies and bees need the most. **More info at blankparkzoo.com/conservation/plantgrowfly**

POLLINATOR POWER Monarch butterflies pollinate flowers, which is an integral part of the reproductive process for many species of plants and trees.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Monarchs connect North American countries, and citizens help track the spring and fall migrations each year.

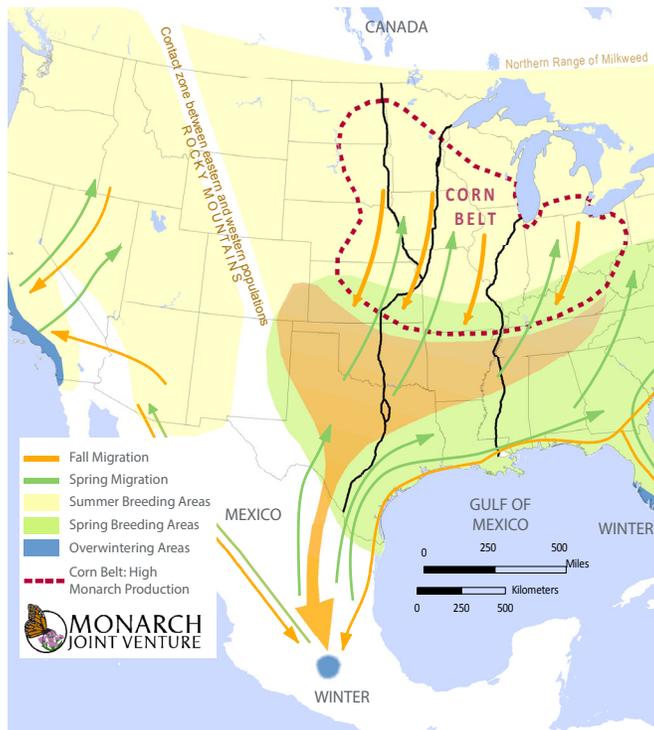
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL In addition to living in natural areas, monarchs inhabit farmland, rangeland, and visit urban areas to sip nectar from garden plants.



Did you know?

Milkweed plants are the only food source for the monarch caterpillar.

Seventeen species of milkweed are native to Iowa.



not a landowner? you can still help!

✓ Participate in one of several Citizen Science Programs in your area -- more info at monarchjointventure.org

✓ Participate in community events at gardens, zoos, and county conservation nature centers

