

Take advantage of Farm Bill programs to establish monarch breeding habitat. Increasing the number of milkweeds and nectar-producing plants are 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

Volunteer to establish monarch habitat on your farm as part of a demonstration project. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and partners, through the Monarch Butterfly Flyway Project, is restoring or installing monarch habitat along two north-south migration corridors in Iowa. This project will partner to cost-share new pollinator seeding on public land or privately protected properties. *Contact Lhein@inhf.org for more info.* Four additional grants already 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

Use monarch-friendly weed management recommendations for odd areas, roadsides, and other rights-of-way (ROWs). Roadsides and ROWs offer opportunities for miles of monarch habitat (nectar and milkweed species). The Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program at the University of Northern Iowa provides information on maintenance of roadsides using management strategies that reduce mowing and application of herbicides, which supports monarch and pollinator habitat along roadsides. *More at tallgrassprairiecenter.org/irvm*

4

5 ways to help the monarchs

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 through fall. *More at monarchwatch.org*

5

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium is a community-led group whose mission is to enhance monarch butterfly reproduction and survival through collaborative and coordinated 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*



Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium

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 over-wintered! 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.

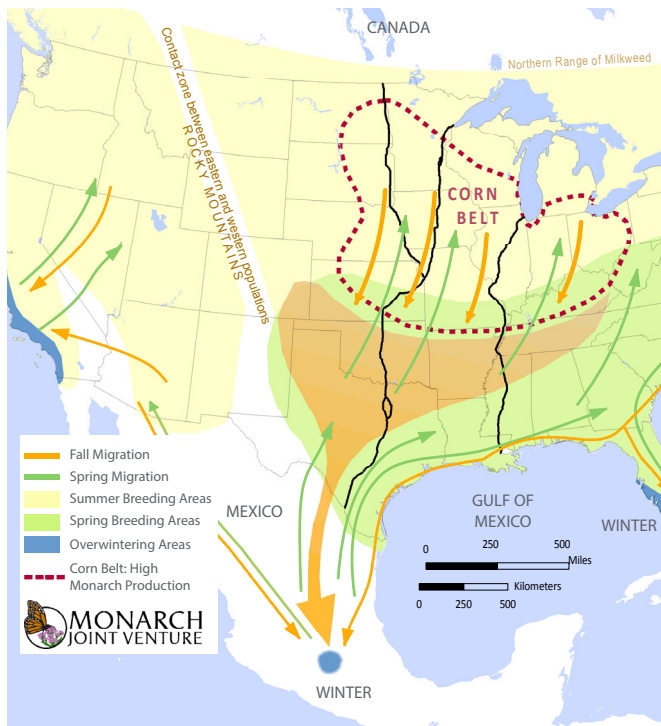
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL In addition to living in natural areas, monarchs inhabit farmland, rangeland, and visit urban areas to sip nectar from garden plants.



Did you know?

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

The monarch migration is completed by successive generations.



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

