

CREATING HABITAT FOR MONARCHS WITH WAYSTATIONS

Ideally, Monarch Waystations are a combination of milkweed (caterpillar host plants), flowering plants full of fuel for butterflies to consume (nectar plants), damp areas from which Monarchs can drink water and uptake minerals (puddling stations) and flat stones where Monarchs can warm themselves (sunning stations).

- If possible, install a waystation at least 100 square feet in size. The total area may be split among several sunny, discrete sites. Any size will help, so smaller is fine!
- Provide blooms from spring to fall, but for our area, please prioritize monarch-specific nectar plants that bloom in February – April.
- Next prioritize monarch specific nectar plants that bloom September – October.
- Aim for a 70% native and 30% plant mass mixture.
- Plant large patches of fewer varieties of nectar plants near your milkweed clumps.
- Expect other pollinators, such as other butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other beneficial insects (ladybeetles, minute pirate bugs, hover flies, and parasitic wasps) to visit your monarch waystation.
- Never use pesticides in this area.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE NECTAR PLANTS FOR MORAGA:

- ⇒ *Lilac Verbena* “De La Mina” (*Verbena lilacina*) - neat, compact mound that is beloved by pollinators
- ⇒ *Coyote Mint* (*Monardella*) - “Russian River” and “Mark West”
- ⇒ *Monkey Flower* (*Mimulus*, AKA *Diplacus*)
- ⇒ *Sages* - Cleveland Sage “Poza Blue”, Black Sage or other salvias

- ⇒ *Goldenrod* (*solidago*) *Californica* spreads. *Lepida* v. *Salebrosa*, or *Rugosa* are more compact
- ⇒ *Sunflowers* - *Helianthus californica* and common sunflower *H. annus*
- ⇒ *Marsh Gumplant* - *Grindelia stricta* var. *angustifolia*
- ⇒ *Yarrow* (*Achillea millefolium*) “Sonoma Coast” (white), “Moonbeam” (yellow), “Island Pink” (pale pink)
- ⇒ *Ceanothus gloriosus* “Anchor Bay” 3’ tall by 6’ wide spring blooming shrub, deer resistant
- ⇒ *Manzanita* (*arctostaphylos* Dr. Hurd). A more garden friendly variety of manzanita that grows to 15 feet but still requires good drainage to survive. Plant manzanita on a mound or bank. Manzanita is an early blooming nectar source for monarchs and pollinators. Hummingbirds love it too.
- ⇒ *Penstemon*
- ⇒ *Sunflowers*: *Helianthus californica*, *Helianthus annus* (common sunflower)
- ⇒ *California Brittlebush* (*Encelia californica*)

NON-NATIVE NECTAR PLANTS FOR MORAGA:

- ⇒ Butterfly Bush - *Buddleia Davidii*-8’ perennial. Blooms spring through fall. Cut back hard to 6 inches in fall. Dwarf varieties are also available.
- ⇒ *Lantana montevidensis* - Low spreading perennial type recommended. Plant in a sunny hot spot as soon as they are available in April. Water regularly for 2 weeks to establish a strong root system. Requires little water once established. Cut back to 6 inches in the fall.
- ⇒ Zinnias - *Z.elegans* Zowie Yellow Flame, Purple Prince, State Fair Mix. Plant in a mass using tall varieties with low petal counts and very visible yellow centers. Ball zinnias do not work. Super fluffies like *Zinderella* do not work.
- ⇒ Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
- ⇒ Mexican Torch Flower - *Tithonia rotundifolia*. Annual 5’
- ⇒ Asters - Simple varieties with strong yellow centers. No china asters or doubles with petals crowding the source of nectar. (Pacific aster may become invasive)
- ⇒ Meadow Blazing Star - *Liatris Ligulistylis*

⇒ Cat Mint (Not Catnip) *Nepeta x faassenii* 'Blue Wonder'

⇒ *Joe Pye Weed* - *Eupatorium* (Sweet Joe Pye Weed is smaller and better behaved)

⇒ *Bee Balm* (*Monarda fistulosa*)

⇒ *Abelia* - *Abelia grandiflora*

PUDDLING STATIONS

Mix a couple Tbs. of compost with coarse sand, spread it in a saucer, moisten with water, and place it on the ground in a sunny spot.

SUNNING STATIONS

Monarchs need warmth to fly; sunbaked flat stones can provide a perfect rest stop. Flagstones or pavers is all you need.

Note: We thank Windsor Garden Club 100 Monarch Waystations 2020 for contributing to this content!