



MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

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

www.monarchjointventure.org

Monarch Joint Venture

The Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academic programs working together to protect the monarch migration across the United States.

Our mission is to protect monarchs and their migration by collaborating with partners to deliver habitat conservation, education, and science across the United States.

Our vision is thriving monarch populations that sustain the monarch migration into perpetuity and serve as a flagship for the conservation of other plants and animals.

Contact us

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Background photo credit:
Wendy Caldwell

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



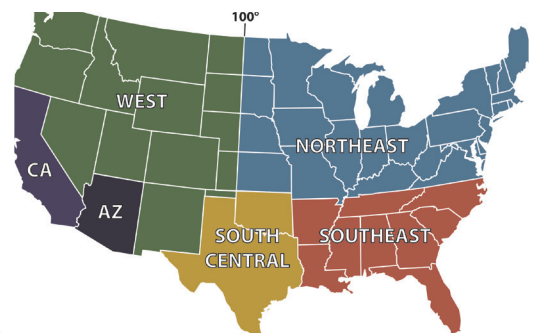
Whorled Milkweed
Asclepias verticillata
Prairies and open areas.
Photo © Kim Davis & Mike Stangeland



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.



Note: Although commercial availability is limited, *A. purpurascens* and *A. sullivantii* are also recommended in the Northeast region.

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.

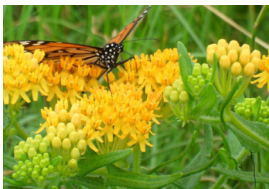
Photo by Robert Potts © California Academy of Sciences

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

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