

# Free Milkweed for Schools and NonProfits Application

**Texas Applicants: Do to funding restrictions, in order to apply, you must select a nearby partner organization to share a flat of 50 milkweed plants. Both organizations must apply. For questions, please call Angie Babbit at 785-864-4850.**

**Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service created a downloadable [Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide!](#) And the USFWS [Schoolyard Habitat Program](#) helps teachers and students create wildlife habitat at their own schools. Click here to access these resources: <https://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/Schoolyard.html>

The St. Louis Butterfly Project created [Monarch Gardens for Schools: A Resource Guide for PreK-12 Urban School Communities](#) <--click here

**Monarchs and pollinators need our help due to habitat loss.**



If your school or non-profit educational organization is interested in this conservation measure, we can help you create a habitat for monarchs and pollinators. Please apply using this form.

If your organization qualifies, we will provide a free flat of 32 milkweed plugs as well as guidance on how to create a new habitat or enhance an existing garden. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has provided funds for this project.

You should receive a confirmation email when you submit this form. Please email

[milkweed@monarchwatch.org](mailto:milkweed@monarchwatch.org) if you have any questions.

Clear, digital photos, maps of the garden and a letter of support are required for consideration. You will be prompted to upload these documents.

**APPLY NOW! Applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received.**

## Who will be considered for free milkweeds?

Applicants that demonstrate the following will be given higher rankings:

- Schools and Educational Non-Profits will be given highest priority
- Educational goals of garden clearly described
- A clear, long-term maintenance plan for the garden space
- Adequate space (>100 square feet) and light (>6 hrs per day)
- Spring/Summer/Fall nectar sources existing or to be added in addition to milkweed
- Administration support
  - Demonstrate in writing that landscape crews will not pull the plants or re-purpose the space in the foreseeable future
- You will commit to sending an evaluation of the garden success and spring/summer/fall photos of the planting and maintenance of the garden
  - We will send a survey in the Fall for photo submissions and garden evaluations
- All application materials must be complete prior to review by Monarch Watch

**Note: Look for important hints and examples in small, gray text below the answer space.** (Hint: The hints and examples will look like this.)

**Select your ecoregion based on the results of the Cornell Yardmap ecoregion finder. Click here: [Cornell Yardmap](#)**

If your zip code does not yield any results, use this alternative website: [Pollinator Partnership](#)

Not all Ecoregions are listed on this application. If you do not see your Ecoregion listed below, that means we do not have plants for your area. Our milkweed availability depends on donations of seed from volunteer seed collectors.

**Your Ecoregion \*** - Select -

If you live in Texas or S. Oklahoma, (Ecoregions 255 and 315) we can ONLY supply you with milkweed if you partner with a nearby organization. Please call Angie at 785-864-4850 if you have questions.

**Organization Type - Select all that apply \***

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Formal Education                         | Church                  |
| School                                   | Homeowners Association  |
| Parent Teacher Organization              | Master Gardeners        |
| Informal Education                       | Master Naturalists      |
| Nature Center                            | Social Service Provider |
| Library                                  | Boy Scouts              |
| Zoo                                      | Girl Scouts             |
| Public or Community Garden               | Youth Organization      |
| National Recreation and Park Assn Member | Other                   |
| Private Garden                           |                         |
| Restricted Access                        |                         |

## What's a "plug?"

The native milkweed that is awarded to qualified applicants comes in "plugs."

These are live plants that have been grown in a restoration nursery. The plants are often trimmed to increase the root mass, or are trimmed for shipping. This does not harm the plants, and can actually benefit them. Unlike nursery plants, restoration plants are grown for habitat restoration, not for aesthetic value at the time of planting.

Aphids and many other greenhouse pests are herbivores. They may be on the plants because the greenhouse is growing the plants for herbivores (monarch caterpillars), and therefore they can't treat the plants with pesticides.

Sometimes, when the plants arrive, they have been trimmed and they have aphids, so they look unlike plants you would get from a local plant distributor.

Please plant them and tend to them.

They will recover, and the aphids will probably diminish if not disappear.

**Organization Name \***

**Primary Contact's First Name \***

**Primary Contact's Last Name \***

**Affiliation/Role at the Organization \***

**Email of primary contact \***

**Telephone of primary contact \***

**Organization Street Address \***

**Organization City \***

**Organization State \*** - Select -

If you do not see your state listed, we do not have milkweed for your state.

**Organization Zip Code \***

**Shipping-First Name**

Who will receive the package?

**Shipping-Last Name**

**Shipping Address**

It may be more convenient for the plants to be shipped to a residence rather than the organization. If so, enter a shipping address. Fill in this portion only if the address is different from the organization address that you entered above.

**Shipping City**

Enter a shipping city only if it is different from the organization city that you entered above.

**Shipping State** - None -

**Shipping Zip Code**

**Purpose of Garden- Rank the importance of these goals \***

	Not important at all	Somewhat important	Very important	Prime goal
Formal curriculum-based education *				
Informal education *				
Unled education (eg: signage, self-tours) *				
Monarch-focused demonstration garden *				
Multi-purpose demonstration garden *				
Certify as a Monarch Waystation *				
Beautify with flowers *				
Increase greenspace *				
Provide habitat for monarchs primarily *				
Provide habitat for many animals *				

**Select all educational components that apply \***

No educational component is planned

Citizen Science (eg: tagging program, Journey North, etc.)

Multi-disciplinary education (art, social studies, science, etc.)

Incorporate Science Standards/Common Core

Applied sciences

Monarch Waystation Network participation

Signage

Self-guided tours

Interpretive programs

Photography

Experiential learning

Unguided exploration

Gardening education

After school programs

School enrichment programs

Public awareness

Sensory exploration

For more information about the Monarch Waystation Network, visit this link: [Monarch Waystation Network](#)

**Describe your garden project (see hint below) \***

Hint: This is your chance to sell your project in your own words. Who will benefit? What are the objectives? Who is helping to maintain the space in the future? List any interesting or innovative garden activities related to your site, such as blogs, special presentations or projects.

**In this section, describe the support that your project has in the organization and community.**

**Do you have authority to make decisions about the property? \*** - Select -

**If not, who has the authority? Name and Title:**

Eg: Barbara Smith, Principal

REQUIRED: Upload a letter of support to Monarch Watch, giving you authority to alter the property by planting a pollinator/butterfly garden. The letter must come from a person of authority at the organization so that we can see the upper-level management approves of the milkweed planting. Use letterhead or other official stationery. If you are the decision-maker, please make that clear in the letter.

The letter should:

- 1. demonstrate a recognition of the importance of planting milkweed for monarchs.
- 2. briefly state the vision and goals for the garden
- 3. list educational activities planned in the garden
- 4. describe collaboration with partners and community

**Letter of Support from Authority \***

Files must be less than **2 MB**.

Allowed file types: **txt rtf pdf doc docx**.

**Groundkeepers & Maintenance - See Hint Below! \***  Yes  No

Hint: Are the groundskeepers and/or maintenance personnel aware of the garden project and know not to mow, apply herbicides and insecticides or "weed" the designated milkweed habitat area?

**List supportive community partners \***

E.g.: businesses, PTA, etc.

**List volunteers to help with this project. \***

(e.g.: master gardeners, gardening committee, neighborhood association, etc.)

**Rate the level of commitment by teachers, volunteers, organizers, etc. to accomplish these tasks in the garden:**

**Garden Plan/Maintenance \***

	No commitments	In the planning stages	Some commitments	Short-term commitments	Long-term commitments
Planning *					
Promotion *					
Site Prep *					
Planting *					
Mulching *					
Watering *					
Weeding *					
Summer weeding/watering *					

**In this section, please describe the general attributes of your site, such as geographic location and setting.**

**Setting \***

- School yard
- Courtyard
- Field edge
- Front of building
- Back of building
- Community garden
- Municipal garden
- Commercial property
- Private garden (not eligible)
- Other

Check all that apply.

**Type of bed \***    Non-raised beds (ideal)    Raised beds    Container garden (not eligible)    Other

**Dimensions \***    - Select -

What is the total approximate square footage of the garden bed(s)? 100 ft sq is an ideal minimum size.

**Latitude \***

Locate the garden site in Google Maps, right-click (control+click on Macs) on the location and select "what is here?" The latitude and longitude will be found after the city, state and zipcode.  
e.g.: Monarch Watch's latitude is 38.948181

**Longitude \***

e.g.: Monarch Watch's longitude is -95.263546 For help, go to [Google Maps Help](#)

**Photo \***    no file selected

REQUIRED: Please attach a photo of the garden site. This photo should include any large structures such as trees or buildings.

Files must be less than **4 MB**.

Allowed file types: **gif jpg png bmp eps tif pict pdf**.

**Photo Permission \***    Yes    No

Does Monarch Watch have permission to use this photo in promotional materials or grant proposals? (We will not use photos of people without obtaining a signed model release.)

**Map \***    no file selected

Please attach a map of the area. Please make sure that large structures are referenced in the diagram. You may use Google Maps to create this file.

Files must be less than **2 MB**.

Allowed file types: **gif jpg png bmp eps tif pict html pdf**.

Do you have funds (\$40.95) to certify your garden as a Monarch Waystation and order a weatherproof sign? If your site is already a Waystation, please provide the certification number, if possible. *Certification is not a requirement.* You can purchase a sign at the [Monarch Watch Shop](#).

**Waystation Funds? \***    Yes    No    Maybe    Already a Waystation

[Find Monarch Waystations Here](#)

**Waystation Number**

If you already have a registered Monarch Waystation and a certification number, enter it here.

**Please describe your site in greater detail, here.**

Will you be creating a new garden, amending an existing garden, or expanding an existing garden?

**New or existing? \***

- New garden
- Amending existing garden
- Expanding existing garden

**Sunlight Availability \***    - Select -

How many hours of sunlight is the site exposed to per day in the spring, summer and fall? Most milkweeds require full sun.

**Water Availability \***    - Select -

Is water readily available to water the garden each week?

**Monarchs need more than milkweed.**

How many nectar sources already exist OR will be planted in the space? Plan for 2-3 nectar plants for every 1 milkweed plant.

For a list of good nectar sources for the eastern US, please visit: [Eastern US Butterfly Garden Plant List](#)

For a list of good nectar sources for Texas and Oklahoma, please visit: [Texas Butterfly Garden Plant List](#)

Or, see [Monarch Watch's Butterfly Gardening Page](#).

**Nectar Sources \***

- none
- 1-30 nectar plants
- 30-40 nectar plants
- 41-60 nectar plants
- 60 or more nectar plants

**Bloom Times-How many species bloom in each season? \***

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-30
Spring Bloom *					
Summer Bloom *					
Fall Bloom *					


Count different species, not individual plants. A diversity of flowers blooming at different times will provide nectar for adult monarchs and other insects.

**List species of nectar plants - see example below. \***

E.g.: 5 purple coneflower, 2 goldenrod...

**Describe Your Maintenance Plan**

When will you plant the milkweed? We can not deliver the plants before May 1 in the spring. We will not deliver plants after temperatures are above 80F.

**Planting Date \*** Year Month Day 

**How often will you water? \***

- There is no watering schedule
- Once a month
- Once a week or as needed (ideal)
- Once a day or as needed

RECOMMENDATION: Mulching with straw or other soft mulch will reduce water loss and weeds.

**How often will you weed? \***

- There is no weeding schedule
- Once a month
- Once a week (ideal)
- Once a day or as needed

RECOMMENDATION: Mulching with straw or other soft mulch will reduce water loss and weeds.

**Will you evaluate the garden's success?**

To justify the funding for this project and future projects, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) asked us to request photos of your gardens at different times during the season.

Please send us photos of the garden while it is being planted, after it is planted and later in the season (Summer or Fall). These updates can be emailed to Angie Babbitt at [milkweed@monarchwatch.org](mailto:milkweed@monarchwatch.org). (Please write that in your calendar, too!)

If possible, also evaluate the garden's success. Tell us about your successes and failures. Tell us about the bees and butterflies that have been attracted to your garden. Most of the insects visiting the flowers in the garden can be identified using the many websites devoted to butterflies, moths, bees, flies and beetles. See examples of these websites, here: [Common Waystation Insects](#). To facilitate these identifications, have students and visitors take pictures. Lists of pollinators (and/or their pictures) could be posted in the garden or on a website dedicated to the garden. Please keep track of these so that you can evaluate the success of the garden!

**Please commit to sending us the following information in August:**

**Fall Update \***

	No	Yes
Photos of planting *		
Spring photos *		
Summer photos *		
Fall photos *		
Pollinator observations *		
Monarch observations *		
Media coverage *		
Social media links *		
Garden successes *		
Gardening failures *		
Innovative activities *		

Keep track of these as the garden progresses! We will not be requesting this information, so put it on your calendar for August/September.

## Comments

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Please share anything that you feel was not covered by this application.

### CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

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**What code is in the image? \***

Enter the characters shown in the image.

SAMPLE FORM - DO NOT SUBMIT