Free Milkweeds for Schools & Nonprofits

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. Feel free to contact 785-864-4850 or monarch@ku.edu if you have questions.

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

You will need to include:
1. A letter of support from the person in charge of the property
2. A photograph of the garden site
3. A map or diagram showing the garden as it relates to surrounding buildings and trees
4. Details about your use of the garden and maintenance. Our goal is to provide milkweed for monarchs for many seasons, and these details will help us help you achieve that goal.

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.

Applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received.

Note to Texas applicants: EACH Texas recipient will receive a full flat of 50 plants. If 50 plants are too many for your garden space, find a partner organization such as a school, library, public park or nature center. We will need an application from both organizations.

Additional Resources to Explore:
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.
The St. Louis Butterfly Project created Resource Page with an abundant source of information about monarchs, milkweed and community science programs.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NATIVE MILKWEEDS:
These plants may be free to you, but they are incredibly valuable (retail value is between $100-160 per flat; value to monarchs is without measure), and we want them to succeed. Every year, we receive feedback from recipients, saying that their plants “died,” even when we know that the plants were strong and healthy when they left the nursery.
Please select "agree" for each of the following conditions before proceeding. If you do not agree, you will not be able to complete this form:

Native milkweed plants are perennials. They have a period of dormancy and a period when they are growing. They will appear "dead" when they are dormant, but they are not dead at all.  *

Dormancy does not always happen only in the winter. It can also occur during a drought, extreme heat, or when the plant is moved to a new location. E.g.: Most Texas species go dormant in the summer and winter and grow in spring and/or fall. *

Milkweed dormancy does not happen only in the winter. It can also occur during a drought, extreme heat, or when the plant is moved to a new location. E.g.: Most Texas species go dormant in the summer and winter and grow in spring and/or fall. *

Do not assume a milkweed is dead because it has lost its leaves. If you do so, you may discard living, valuable plants. White milkweed roots are living roots. If you need us to send you photos of examples, please ask. *

Our shipping contract is with UPS. Sometimes the plants become tossed around and jumbled by UPS. Each plant will still be in the box, and will likely be alive, even if the stems are broken. Please locate each plant and do not discard plants because they were without soil for a short period of time, have broken stems or missing leaves. *

The value of these plants is in their perennial roots. If the plants look too destroyed to survive, PLANT THEM ANYWAY. You have no idea if they are alive or not, but if you assume they are dead and discard them, they are certainly not going to live. *

Perennials come back from living roots every year. Annuals do not come back, except when they re-seed themselves. Do not place your milkweed in an area where they will be replaced annually by other plants. Place them in an area where they will thrive every year for many years to come. *
More than milkweeds are needed to foster monarchs and pollinators in your garden. Nectar sources are also required.

Sometimes, when the plants arrive, they have been trimmed and they may have aphids. Please plant the plants and do not use pesticides to kill the aphids.

Home Schools are not eligible to receive this grant unless the garden is on public land. Each recipient is eligible for one free flat of milkweeds. Prior recipients are not eligible unless they are applying on behalf of another location.

If you have a social media presence, or feature your garden in local media, please acknowledge the gift of milkweed plants from Monarch Watch.

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. A follow-up survey will be sent to you.

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 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
- 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 respond to a survey for photo submissions and garden evaluations
- All application materials must be complete prior to review by Monarch Watch
- Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Please verify that you are human

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

You should receive a confirmation email when you submit this form. Please email at monarch@ku.edu if you have any questions.

Select your ecoregion based on the results of the Pollinator Partnership ecoregion finder. Click here: 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 and on availability of milkweed growers.
Your Ecoregion *

Please Select

Please call Angie Babbit at 785-864-4850 if you have any questions.

Organization Type - Select all that apply *

- Formal Education
- School
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Informal Education
- Nature Center
- Library
- Zoo
- Public or Community Garden
- National Recreation and Park Assn Member
- Private Garden (Not eligible)
- Restricted Access
- Church
- Homeowners Association
- Master Gardeners
- Master Naturalists
- Social Service Provider
- Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Youth Organization
Home School (Not eligible unless garden is on public property.)
Other

** Organization Name **

** Primary Contact's Name **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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** Affiliation/Role at the Organization **

** Email of Primary Contact **

example@example.com

** Phone Number of Primary Contact **

(000) 000-0000

Please enter a valid phone number.

** Organization Address **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Address</th>
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<td>Street Address Line 2</td>
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<td>City</td>
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<td>Postal / Zip Code</td>
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</table>

Will the milkweeds be shipped to the Organization Address, above? (Must be a physical address, not a Post Office Box.)

- Yes
- No

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

** Shipping Name **

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<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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</table>
Shipping Address (if different from Organization Address, above) *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

Do you have the ultimate authority to make decisions about the property? *

- Yes - I have the authority as decision-maker.
- No - But I have a letter of support from that authority.

Letter of Support

Who has the authority to make decisions about the property?

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

Name of Authority *

First Name

Last Name

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.

The letter should:

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

Letter of Support: *

Browse Files
Drag and drop files here

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.
Purpose of Garden -- Rank the importance of these goals by dragging them into the correct order.

Describe your garden project.
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.

Select all educational components that apply
- Citizen Science (eg: tagging program, Journey North, etc.)
- Multi-disciplinary education (art, social studies, science, etc.)
- Incorporate Science Standards/Common Core
- Applied sciences
- Signage/Kiosks
- Self-guided tours
- Interpretive programs
- Photography
- Experiential learning
- Unguided exploration
- Gardening education
- After school programs
- School enrichment programs
- Public awareness
- Sensory exploration
- Multi-use Garden (eg: vegetables and pollinators)
- No educational component is planned
- Other

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

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?

Groundskeepers are aware:
- Yes
- No
List five or fewer community partners below. These are people or organizations who are supporting the project with donations. If none, leave blank.
E.g.: businesses, PTA, municipality, etc.

Community Partners:

What are your volunteer affiliations? These are people or organizations who will be providing volunteer gardening expertise or labor. List five or fewer. If none, leave blank.
E.g.: master gardeners, gardening committee, neighborhood association, green team, etc.

Volunteers:

Rate the level of commitment by staff, volunteers, organizers, etc. to accomplish these tasks in the garden:
RECOMMENDATION: Mulching with straw or other soft mulch will reduce water loss and weeds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Plan/Maintenance</th>
<th>No Commitments</th>
<th>Planning Stage</th>
<th>Short-term Commitments</th>
<th>Long-term Commitments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden Design</td>
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<td>Garden Promotion</td>
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<td>Summer Maintenance</td>
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</table>
How often will you water? *

- Never
- Once a month
- Once a week or as needed (ideal)
- Once a day or as needed

How often will you weed? *

- Never
- Once a month
- Once a week or as needed (ideal)
- Once a day or as needed

**General Site Description**

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

*All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.*

**Setting** *

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

**Type of Bed** *

- Non-raised beds (ideal)
- Raised beds
- Container garden (not eligible)
- Other

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

**Dimensions** *

- 0-59 sq. ft.
- 60-79 sq. ft.
- 70-79 sq. ft.
- 80-89 sq. ft.
- 90-100 sq. ft.
- >100 sq. ft.
- Other
Using the instructions below, please indicate the Latitude and Longitude of your garden site, which may be different from your current location. We use this information for grant reporting only.

**To get the coordinates of a place:**
On your computer, open Google Maps.
Right-click (or control-click) the place or area on the map.
To copy the coordinates automatically, select the latitude and longitude.

(Source: [https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539](https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539))

Please use the Decimal degrees (DD) format, such as:

- **Latitude**: 41.40338
- **Longitude**: -95.17403

Other options for finding latitude and longitude:
- [https://www.gps-coordinates.org](https://www.gps-coordinates.org)
- [https://www.latitude.net](https://www.latitude.net)

**Latitude** *

ex: 38.94856754059194

**Longitude** *

ex: -95.26355528720853

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

**Browse Files**
Drag and drop files here

Does Monarch Watch have permission to use this photo in promotional materials or grant proposals?

- Permission
  - Yes
  - No

Please attach a map of the area. Please make sure that large structures are referenced in the diagram. You may use a drawing, rendering, landscape plan or Google Maps to create this image. *

**Browse Files**
Drag and drop files here

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](https://www.monarchwatch.com).
Waystation funds available: *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Already a Waystation
- Other

Click on Monarch Waystation Registry to search for Waystations.

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

Monarch Waystation Number

ex: 23685

If you do not have a Waystation or can't find the number, you can leave this blank.

Please describe your site in greater detail.

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

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

Milkeeds need full sun. How many hours of sunlight will be available to the milkweed in the garden?

Sunlight availability *

- 0-3
- 4-5
- 6-7
- 8-9 (ideal)
- >9

The new plants will need to be watered. Once established, they will only need to be monitored if it is extremely hot and dry, or if they appear to be wilting.

Is water readily available to water the garden each week?

Water availability *

- No water available
- Must carry water to site
- Water and hoses available
- Other
All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

Monarchs need more than milkweed. 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.

How many nectar sources already exist OR will be planted in the space?

Nectar sources *

☐ none
☐ 1–30 nectar plants
☐ 30–40 nectar plants
☐ 41–60 nectar plants
☐ 60 or more nectar plants

Bloom Times- Approximately how many species bloom in each season?

Bloom Times & Number of Species *

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<th>10–14</th>
<th>15–19</th>
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List species of nectar plants - see example below. *

E.g.: 5 purple coneflower, 2 goldenrod, 13 black eyed susan, marigolds, Mexican sunflowers

Planting Date

MM-DD-YYYY

When will you plant the milkweed?

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

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. The best photos tell a story about the people in your garden and show context. We have plenty of photos of caterpillars on milkweed. A better picture would be of someone looking at caterpillars and interacting with the garden.
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 monarch@ku.edu. We will also send you a fillable form in the fall with the option to upload photos.

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 the Fall (or spring, if you receive fall plants):

I commit to sending an update when requested: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photos of planting</td>
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<td>Spring photos</td>
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<td>Pollinator observations</td>
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<td>Social media links</td>
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You have come to the end of the form!

If you are completely finished with the application, please click on the “Submit” button below to send it to us. You will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your responses.