



MONARCH WAYSTATIONS

CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS

www.MonarchWatch.org

Monarch Waystations are gardens and habitats that help monarch butterflies survive by providing nectar-rich plants during their spring and fall migrations and caterpillar food plants during their summer breeding season.

Plants for a Monarch Waystation in the Verde Valley Mid-Altitude Desert (2,000-4,000')

NATIVE CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS (HOSTS) FOR MONARCHS

Plant at least 10 individual milkweed plants of one or more species

Host Plant	Botanical Name	Growing Needs
Antelope Horns, Spider Milkweed	<i>Asclepias asperula</i>	Full sun, low water
Arizona Milkweed 🦋	<i>Asclepias angustifolia</i>	Full sun, low to average water; native to SE Arizona
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Full sun – part shade, well-drained acidic soil
Horsetail Milkweed* 🦋	<i>Asclepias subverticillata</i>	Full sun, low to average water
Mojave Milkweed	<i>Asclepias nyctaginifolia</i>	Full sun, well-drained alkaline soil

NATIVE NECTAR PLANTS FOR MONARCHS AND OTHER BUTTERFLIES

Plant a variety of nectar sources for bloom from spring to fall

Common name	Botanical name	Flower color
Aster 🦋	<i>Symphotrichum falcatum, S. lanceolatum</i>	white
Bee brush	<i>Aloysia wrightii</i>	white
Blackfoot daisy	<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	white
Blanketflower 🦋	<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>	gold, orange, red
Bur-marigold (smooth beggartick) 🦋	<i>Bidens laevis</i>	golden-yellow
Chocolate flower	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	yellow
Desert broom 🦋	<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	cream
Desert marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>	yellow
Fendler's buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus fendleri</i>	white
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron spp.</i>	white
Fringed Twinevine	<i>Funastrum cynanchoides</i>	white to pale pink
Golden crownbeard 🦋	<i>Verbesina enceliodes</i>	yellow
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	gold
Golden tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	yellow
Goodding's Verbena 🦋	<i>Glandularia gooddingii</i>	purple
Gregg's mistflower 🦋	<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	lavender-blue
Milkweed 🦋	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	pink, orange, white
New Mexico Thistle	<i>Cirsium neomexicanum</i>	purple
Rabbitbrush 🦋	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	yellow
Rocky Mountain Zinnia	<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i>	gold
Seepwillow	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	white
Sugar sumac	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	rose-pink
Sunflower 🦋	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	yellow
Tansyaster 🦋	<i>Machaeranthera spp.</i>	purple
Turpentine bush	<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i>	golden-yellow
Western blue flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	blue

NON-NATIVE NECTAR PLANTS		
(will grow with irrigation)		
Common name	Botanical name	Flower color
Chaste-tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	purple
Cosmos 🦋	<i>Cosmos spp.</i>	all available colors
Egyptian starclusters (heirloom varieties; not cultivars)	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	red, pink
Globe thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	lavender-purple
Lantana 🦋	<i>Lantana camera</i>	all available colors
Marigold (single-flowered varieties)	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>	yellow
Mealy blue sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	blue
Mexican bush sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	purple
Mexican flame vine 🦋	<i>Senecio confusus</i>	orange-red
Mexican sunflower 🦋	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	orange
Pansies 🦋	<i>Viola spp.</i> (small ones best)	orange, purple, blue
Pincushion flower 🦋	<i>Scabiosa spp.</i>	Blue-purple
Tropical milkweed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	orange & red
Verbena 🦋	<i>Verbena spp.</i>	purple, pink
Wooly butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i>	orange
Zinnia (single-flowered varieties) 🦋	<i>Zinnia spp.</i>	yellow, orange, pink

KEY 🦋 = Monarch magnet, * = grow in areas without livestock

Local Pesticide-free Plant Sources

Garden Center at Builder's First Choice, West Sedona https://www.bldr.com/location_sedona-home-center

(Note: only those plants growing in Civano Nursery pots are reliably pesticide-free).

Arizona Botanical Gardens, Clarkdale (928)634-2166, <http://www.azbotanicalgardens.com>

Non-local Pesticide-free Plant Sources

Arizona Milkweeds for Monarchs (in Flagstaff), <https://www.azmilkweedsformonarchs.org/>

Spadefoot Nursery (in Tucson), <https://www.spadefootnursery.com/>

Borderlands Nursery (in Patagonia), <https://www.borderlandsplants.org/plants>

Desert Survivors (in Tucson) <https://desertsurvivors.org/plants/> (some pesticide use; ask before buying)

(Note: mail-order plants from other states must be treated with pesticides before crossing state lines).

Seed Sources

Borderlands Nursery online store at <https://www.borderlandsplants.org/seeds>

Plants of the Southwest, online store at <https://plantsofthesouthwest.com/collections>

Terroir Seeds, online store at <http://store.underwoodgardens.com>

Resources

Book: *Butterflies of the Central Arizona Highlands*, by Philip McNally

Checklist: Butterflies of the Verde Valley, https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5345507.pdf

(Note: an updated version may be picked up at Page Springs/Bubbling Ponds Preserve Kiosk)

Native and Naturalized Plants of Yavapai County, <https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/>

Butterflies of Yavapai County, AZ, http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=All&tid=373

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