



# MONARCH 911 PROJECT

<https://hancockmga.com/monarch911>



## WHY A MONARCH GARDEN?

Monarch butterflies migrate across the continent, providing the invaluable service of pollinating flowers. Thanks to monarchs and other pollinators, we can enjoy an abundance of flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

Unfortunately, the loss of monarch habitats has greatly reduced their numbers. We have the privilege and responsibility to restore these habitats in Hancock County. We can do this by planting gardens where monarch butterflies can hatch and live safely.



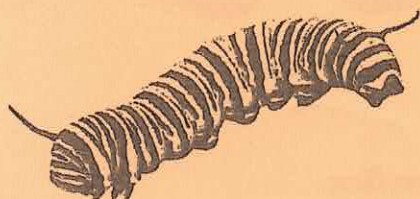
## WHAT TO PLANT

### Milkweed

Did you know Monarch Butterflies lay eggs on only one kind of plant? Without milkweed in a garden, there will be no Monarch caterpillars!

There are many types of milkweed, but these are native to our area of the country:

- Common milkweed
- Swamp milkweed
- Butterfly milkweed
- Poke milkweed



### Nectar Plants

Monarch larvae eat only milkweed, but adults enjoy nectar from many kinds of plants. They need nectar through the spring, summer, and fall, so try to choose a variety of plants that bloom throughout the growing season. Here are a few ideas of plants they will love:

- Spring Beauty (early)
- Purple prairie clover (early)
- Leadplant (early)
- Coneflowers (mid)
- Liatris (mid)
- Bee Balm (mid)
- Black-eyed Susan (mid)
- New England Aster (late)
- Blue mistflower (late)
- Stiff or Showy Goldenrod (late)

# PLANTING TIPS

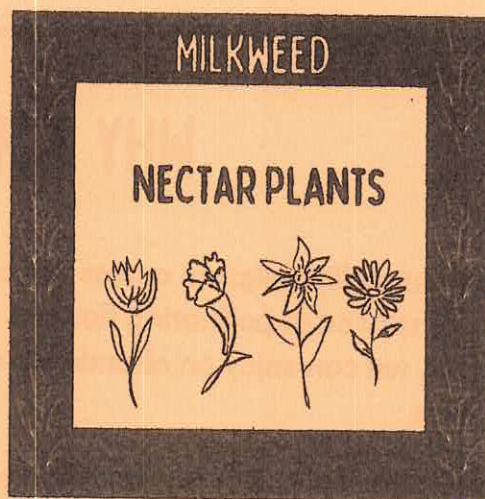
## Container Garden

Anyone can provide a home for monarchs, no matter how much space is available! Remember to provide adequate drainage and use potting soil when gardening in containers.

- Start with one or two large pots (16-20") containing one milkweed plant each. If you're starting with seeds, use several seeds per pot.
- Add any number of pots with nectar plants nearby. These don't have to be directly next to the milkweed, but should be easily visible, so the butterflies know where to go.



## Traditional Garden



- Monarchs can't use milkweed if they don't know it's there! Plant milkweed in a perimeter around your garden, so they can see it easily.
- Plant your monarch garden in an area that won't be affected by pesticides.
- If you're planting common milkweed, be sure the plants have room to spread.

## LEARN MORE!

Excited about creating safe homes for Monarch Butterflies? These are our favorite resources:

### Monarch 911

- <https://hancockmga.com/monarch911>

### The Monarch Joint Venture:

- <https://www.monarchjointventure.org>

### Monarch Nectar Guides:

- <https://xerces.org/monarchs/monarch-nectar-plant-guides>

### Monarch Waystation Program:

- <https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations>

### Monarch Butterfly Conservation:

- <https://www.xerces.org/monarchs>

### Gardening for Wildlife:

- <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Wildlife/Attracting-Butterflies>

