

Monarch Butterfly Waystation

CROOKED RIVER WETLANDS
COMPLEX



The Monarch Butterfly is in peril. In the last decade its population dropped by 90%. But in 2018 the western population dropped by 99%!

In 2017 the **Barnes Butte First Graders** started an outdoor study project to spread seeds for a monarch butterfly garden. Every first grader can look forward to being involved with this project each year.

As a result, several of the wetland volunteers became interested in starting a **Monarch Butterfly Waystation**. A waystation is a place where the butterfly can find food, shelter and water.

Then, in 2018 the wetland complex was awarded a **grant from Friends of the Forest** to design and implement a one quarter acre pollinator garden.

Visit the area near Kiosk G to see the ¼ acre pollinator garden (currently in process) and **visit the informational bulletin behind Kiosk G** to learn more about our projects and the Monarch Butterfly.



Many insects are disappearing around the world especially bees and butterflies. The Monarch Butterfly is especially challenged in that their caterpillars can only eat milkweed. The Monarch butterfly feeds on the nectar of native plants but it can only lay its eggs on milkweed.

Help us bring back the monarch.



What can you do?

**Individuals
can plant
milkweed**

and native plants in their own gardens.

Avoid using herbicides and pesticides in your garden, especially neonicotinoids. Only buy plants from local nurseries that don't use them.

Plant large shrubs and small trees that provide cover and shelter.

Provide an area of wet soil to encourage butterflies to "puddle".

Advocate for your community to plant native plants and milkweed in public areas such as library, city hall, and parks and more.

Resources:

Xerces Society, Monarch Watch
Monarch Joint Venture
<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>

We would like to thank the following for helping to save the Monarch:



- Barnes Butte First Graders
- Friends of the Forest
- Tom Landis, Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates
- Danielle Brigida/US Fish and Wildlife Services
- The City of Prineville
- The Crooked River Complex Wetland Volunteers



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Spreading Milkweed, Not Myths Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on just one type of plant, and that’s milkweed (genus *Asclepias*). Unfortunately, milkweed often has a bad reputation. While awareness is rising around the **importance of milkweed** (as well as other **native plants**) for pollinators we want to clear up any misconceptions. Because the fact is, planting the right species of milkweed for your area can be a huge help to monarchs and a number of other species. Before we begin, **meet milkweed**, a beautiful plant, where monarchs lay their eggs. Want some for your yard? Investigate what species is right for where you live.

Myth #1: Milkweed is an invasive weed. Milkweed is a beneficial wildflower. It may have “weed” in the name, but there are over 100 species of **milkweed** native to the United States and none of them are considered “noxious weeds”. While milkweed can grow quickly, planting species local to your region and researching a bit about growing patterns is a good way to ensure it won’t take over your yard.

Myth #2: Monarch caterpillars eat more than milkweed. Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed. If monarch eggs are laid on plants other than milkweed, the caterpillars cannot survive and ultimately starve to death. Monarch caterpillars rely on milkweed plants and that’s why female monarchs choose to lay their eggs on milkweed plants.

Myth #3: Milkweed is only useful to monarchs. This is just false. There are a number of species that use milkweed nectar and some will even eat various parts of the plant (like the milkweed bug!).

Myth #4: Because milkweed is toxic, you shouldn’t plant it. Milkweed does contain toxins that can be harmful to pets, livestock and people. The milky sap for which it gets its name leaks out from the stem or leaves. This sap contains toxins called cardiac glycosides or cardenolides, which are toxic to animals **if consumed in large quantities**.



The good news? Milkweed does NOT taste good. conditions where plants freeze, etc.



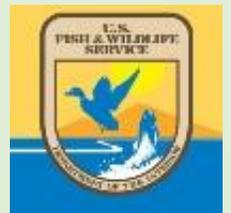
“Animals usually do not eat milkweed unless good forage is scarce or under

The myth here, is that you shouldn’t plant here are some tips for handling milkweed if you’re

milkweed at all. The truth is...most animals won’t eat it because of the taste, and hesitant.

Being careful and aware goes a long way.

1. Wash your hands and use gardening gloves like you would any other plant.
2. Be careful to not include it in the hay of grazing animals and make sure there is always plenty of other food for them to forage.
3. Know that your pets will likely avoid it, but if you’re nervous, research the milkweed species you plant to see toxicity levels.
4. Take steps to prevent accidental ingestion, such as instructing children that the plant is poisonous and to avoid any contact with their eyes after touching the plant.



All in all, planting milkweed is a sure way to help **save the monarch**. So let’s spread milkweed and cut back on the myths.