

**Creating a healthy habitat for Monarchs
and other pollinators is easy if you
follow these simple guidelines.**

- **PICK A SUNNY SPOT**

Most pollinators feed on flower nectar from plants that grow in sunny areas. Ideally your butterfly garden should receive at least six hours of direct sunlight each day.

- **MILKWEED, MILKWEED, MILKWEED**

Planting milkweed remains the easiest and best thing that the average gardener can do to help Monarchs. Milkweed is where the butterflies lay their eggs and the only thing that the caterpillars will eat. Plant native species when you can. Ask when purchasing plants if they use commercial pesticides or fertilizers or grow from seed yourself.

- **KEEP IT CHEMICAL-FREE**

The widespread use of insecticides and herbicides has contributed to the decline of the Monarch population (as well as critically endangering other important pollinators). Pesticides especially are non-discriminatory, and when you spray them to kill one type of insect, you kill them all. It is crucial to avoid the use of any toxins in your Monarch habitat. Turn instead to organic pest and weed control methods, fertilizers, and soils.

- **NECTAR-RICH FOOD SOURCES**

Fill your garden with as many nectar-rich flowering species as possible, planning for early, middle, and late bloom times to ensure that there is a constant supply of seasonal food. Planting in clusters will make it easier for wildlife to spot the plants that you have planted to attract them. Protection from weather as well as predators can be achieved by planting densely and surrounding the garden with shrubs and vines.

- **GARDEN SIZE**

The good news is that even a small container garden of plants that support the full life cycle of the Monarch provides a beneficial habitat, but the more area you can devote to garden beds planted with nectar and host plants, the more success at attracting Monarchs you'll have. Try for a bed that is at least ten by ten feet, or multiple smaller beds.

JOIN US!

You can support this community effort by planting Milkweed and having your garden certified as a Monarch Butterfly Haven. A Dade City Monarch Butterfly Haven will contain milkweed and other larval plants to support the breeding process, nectar plants to feed the adult butterflies, and will be maintained using sound organic gardening practices (no pesticides). Upon certification, you will be awarded a Certificate with your name and garden location from the Dade City Garden Club and will be given the opportunity to purchase a sign to display in your yard.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS A DADE CITY MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAVEN

- **Garden must contain at least 20 Plants total.**
- **Garden must contain a minimum of three (3) different Host Plants with milkweed (minimum of five (5) plants) being one of them.**
- **Garden must contain at least five (5) different Nectar Plants, preferably more than one of each type.**
- **Garden must be pesticide-free!**

PLANT MILKWEED GET CERTIFIED AS A MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAVEN!



WE HAVE TAKEN THE MONARCH UNDER OUR WING!

Through its designation as a Monarch City USA, Dade City, FL has pledged to help the Monarch Butterfly.

You can help by planting a Monarch Butterfly Haven right in your backyard!

CERTIFIED MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAVEN

This garden provides a healthy habitat for the full life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly



**PLANT A MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAVEN RIGHT
IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD!**

Here are some suggestions for your garden:

Nectar Plants whose flowers provide nectar to attract and feed the adult butterflies. Suggestions—*Penta (Old Fashioned), Plumbago, Zinnia, Salvia, Buddleia, Bottlebrush, Beach Sunflower, Firebush, Honeysuckle, Pagoda, Bush Daisy, Agapanthus, Climbing Aster, Flattop goldenrod, Goldenrod, Mistflower, Scorpiontail, Beggar's Tick, Yellowtop*

Host Plants which provide food for their young, the caterpillars that hatch from their eggs —

<i>Milkweed**</i>	Monarch, Queen
<i>Maypop, Corkystem</i>	Zebra Longwing, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passionflower (best behaved)</i>	
<i>Parsley, Dill, Fennel, Rue</i>	Black Swallowtail
<i>Citrus, Wild Lime, Hercules Club</i>	Giant Swallowtail
<i>Bay Tree</i>	Palamedes Swallowtail
<i>Dutchmen's Pipevine</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamas Swallowtail

Ground Cover— *Gaillardia, Tickseed, Perennial Peanut, Cosmos, Zinnias, Dotted Horsemint, Sunshine Mimosa, Blue-eyed grass, Goldenrod, Liatris, Carolina Wild Petunia, Verbena, Prostrate Porterweed*

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TROPICAL MILKWEED

Tropical Milkweed, *Asclepias Curassavica*, that we find at the big box stores is a great nectar and host plant. However, since it doesn't go dormant like the other milkweed in the fall, Dr. Jaret Daniel from UF and others in the field feel that it is encouraging the Monarch to stay in central Florida and not migrate. The other issue with the Tropical Milkweed is that mites continue to live on the new growth, which may be transferred to the Monarch and cause physical issues in the emerging butterflies. **If you do plant Tropical Milkweed here in Pasco County, please cut it back in November.**

****Be very careful when handling milkweed plants to avoid irritation from the milky sap. These compounds can cause eye and skin problems.**



DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB

13630 5th Street
Dade City, Florida, 33525



**CERTIFIED MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAVEN
APPLICATION FORM**

NAME _____ () INDIVIDUAL () BUSINESS () OTHER

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

LOCATION OF GARDEN * _____

NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR CERTIFICATE _____

***The Dade City Monarch Butterfly Haven is limited to gardens within the Dade City zip code area (33523, 33525, 33526) and members of the Dade City Garden Club.**

All gardens looking to be certified must contain at least 20 Plants total. Garden must contain a minimum of three (3) different Host Plants with milkweed (minimum of five (5) plants) being one of them. Garden must contain at least five (5) different Nectar Plants, preferably more than one of each type.

HOST PLANTS (at least 3) that provide food for the caterpillars: 1. Milkweed (at least five)

2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
Optional Optional Optional

NECTAR PLANTS (at least 5 types) that provide food for the adult butterflies

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Other (Optional): _____

**Return this form to DCGC Butterfly Committee; PO Box 1794;
Dade City, FL 33526-1794.**

You may also scan this application and email it to DCGCMonarch@gmail.com. A garden club representative will contact you to arrange a visit and issue a certificate for your garden. You will have the opportunity to purchase a weatherproof yard sign to display for \$20 (\$15 for DCGC Members).