

# WHY MONITOR THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

## THREATS TO THEIR HABITAT



EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS DURING MIGRATION AND IN THEIR WINTERING GROUNDS



LOSS OF MILKWEED AND OTHER NECTAR PLANTS



HABITAT FRAGMENTATION AND DEFORESTATION IN NORTH AMERICA

## FACTS ABOUT THE MONARCH:

In the fall, Monarch butterflies will begin their migration from Canada to Central Mexico. Scientists think the monarchs use the position of the sun and the changing weather to know when it's time for their long journey

They are one of the few species able to tolerate milkweed's poisonous sap, making the butterfly itself toxic

The monarch butterfly is now endangered in Canada

Monarch butterflies live mainly in prairies, meadows, grasslands and along roadsides, across most of North America

## HOW TO HELP

### Plant milkweed for caterpillars

Including:

- Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) – grows in well-drained soil
- Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) – grows well in damper conditions but also in regular gardens



### Plant late-blooming native plants for adult monarchs

Including:

- Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- Asters (e.g., New England aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Goldenrods (e.g., Canada goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*)

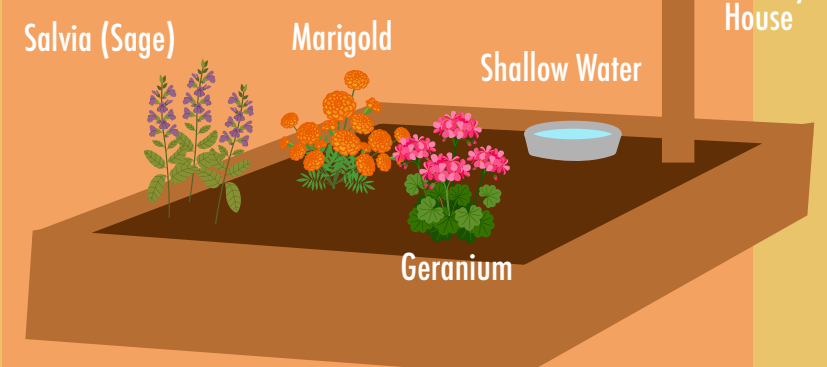
*Tip: always use native species and plants of different sizes to shelter monarchs from predators and weather*

- Milkweed is a perennial plant and comes back every year. At the end of the flowering season, spread the seeds to grow more stems!

### Make Your Own DIY Butterfly House!

Building a wood structure with narrow slits in the front mimics the splits in the bark of a tree. Butterflies will use the house to shelter from bad weather and predators, as well as for feeding if you leave out food.

To attract butterflies, place the house in a sunny spot with lots of flowering plants, as well as sheltered from the wind.



If you would like more information, please contact Alexia Hardy at [alexia.hardy@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:alexia.hardy@mmf.mb.ca) or (431) 275 2963