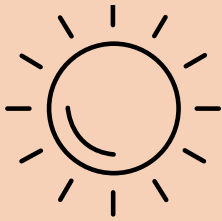


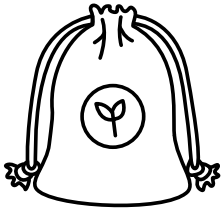
# Monarch Habitat

All it takes is **sun, seeds, and elbow grease!**

Monarch butterflies are beautiful insects that need your help! Monarchs have experienced an 80+% population decline in the last 25 years, but it's not too late to turn things around. The best way to support monarchs is by providing diverse, safe, resource-rich habitat.



**SUN:** Find a spot that is sunny, easy for you to access, and away from anywhere you might use pesticides. It can be part of your lawn, the weedy patch at your church, the couple of acres left fallow, anywhere! Place a heavy black tarp on the ground in the sun for a few weeks to kill off any unwanted grass and weeds to make space for your garden without the use of herbicides



**SEEDS:** Native species are excellent choices because they are perfectly suited for the Wisconsin weather, climate, soils, predators, and, of course, pollinators. Aim to have something blooming from spring through fall for maximum food sources and beauty.



Prairie phlox



Swamp milkweed



Meadow blazing star



Showy goldenrod



New England aster

If you want to plant plugs or potted plants, you can put them in the ground in spring and summer. If you want to use seed, scatter your seed in fall or winter just before it snows.



**ELBOW GREASE:** Once the plants are mature, they will be drought tolerant, but make sure young, tender plants are getting enough rain or supplement with water through the first year. After the first year, just check your habitat periodically for invasive species or pests, and remember to avoid using chemical pesticides!

It won't take long before your monarch habitat starts looking full, vibrant, and active with insect and animal visitors. Celebrate when you see your first monarch at the site! You are doing something wonderful for Wisconsin's essential pollinators.

Get involved at [wimonarchs.org](http://wimonarchs.org)!