

What is a Pollinator Garden?

A pollinator garden provides everything bees and butterflies need to complete their life cycle from egg to adult.

Planting milkweed is essential for monarchs and is a critical part of the Illinois Monarch Project's (IMP) monarch recovery plan. IMP has set a goal of 150 million new stems of milkweed by 2038. Your garden can help reach that goal. Learn more at: illinoismonarchproject.org

What do Bees and Butterflies need the most?



Sources for Pollinator Garden Plants *(Call ahead first as milkweed plants may sell out.)*

Forest Preserve District of DuPage
Native Plant Sale
Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale

The Growing Place
25W471 Plank Rd, Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 355-4000

Midwest Ground Covers
6N800 IL-25, St Charles, IL 60174
(847) 742-1790

Natural Communities
<https://naturalcommunities.net/>

Prairie Moon Nursery
(Mail Order)
<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

Prairie Nursery
(Mail Order)
<http://www.prairienursery.com/>

Prairie Wind Native Plants
<http://www.prairiewindnatives.com/>

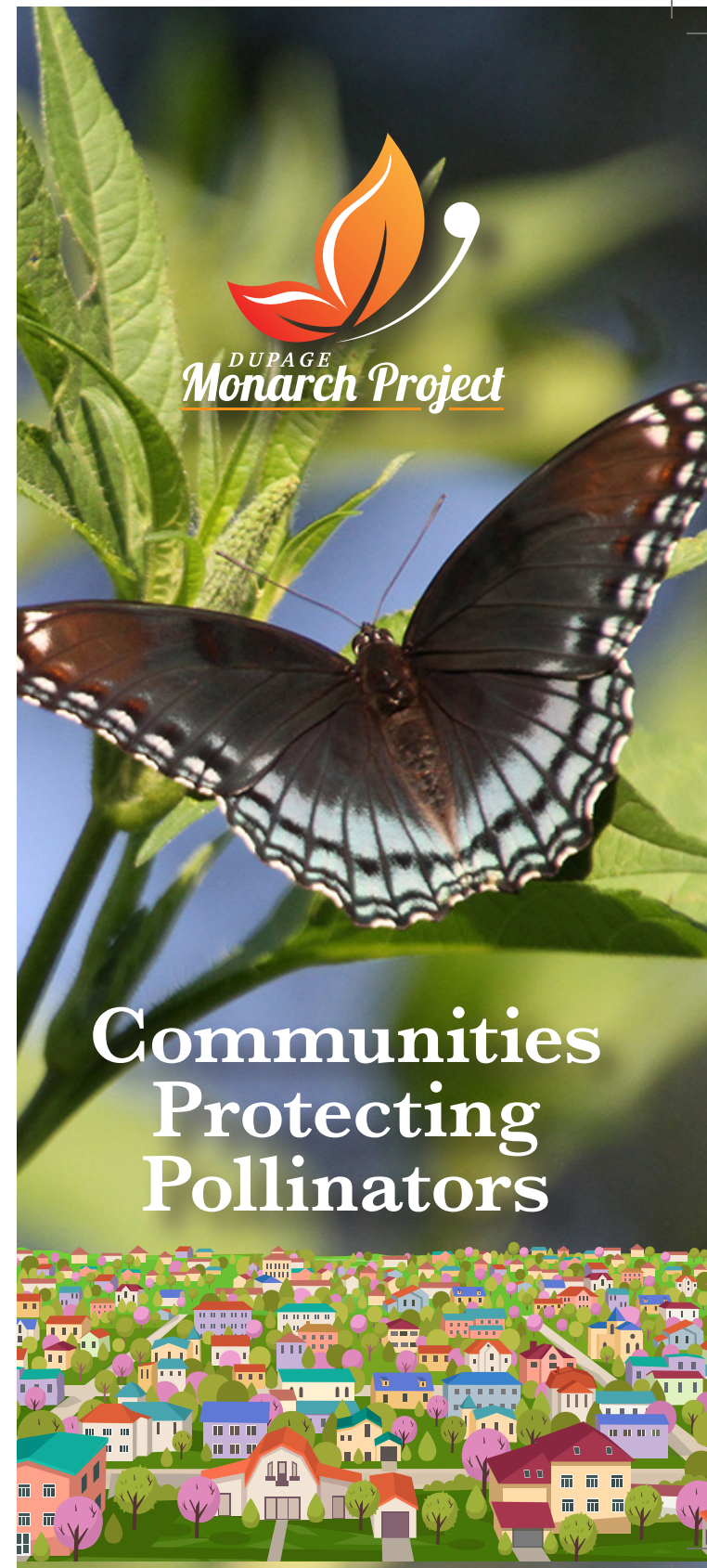
Wheaton Native Plant Sale
<http://wheatonparkdistrict.com/events/native-plant-sale/>



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facebook.com/dupagemonarchproject/about/



Communities Protecting Pollinators



Food for Caterpillars

Monarch caterpillars only eat the leaves of one type of plant - milkweed. The native milkweed species that are typically available at local garden stores are

- Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - A
- Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - B
- Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) - C
- Whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) - D
- Prairie milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*) - E



A B C D E

Tips

- Plant 10 or more milkweed, if possible two species, preferably located around the perimeter of the garden.
- Select plants that are suitable for your garden conditions. Milkweed requires full sun, swamp milkweed likes medium moist to moist soils while butterfly weed prefers drier, loose soil. It does not thrive in heavy clay.
- An informal garden style provides nooks and crannies to shelter caterpillars and bees.

Food for Pollinators

Bees and butterflies eat nectar and pollen found in flowers. Having plenty of flowers with nectar and pollen is important, especially ones that will feed the bees and butterflies in spring, summer and fall. A full guide of plants

for our region can be found at: xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/great-lakes

- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
- Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- American Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)
- Missouri Ironweed (*Veronia missurica*)
- Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- Meadow Blazing Star (*Liatris ligulistylis*)
- Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
- New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

- Bees and butterflies need places for nesting and overwintering. Leave patches of bare ground and standing plant stalks through the winter. Garden clean up is best done in spring when temperatures are above 55° and overwintering native bees have begun foraging.
- Dense plantings will reduce the amount of weeding after the garden is established.
- Monarch Watch recommends a minimum of 100 square foot for a monarch garden. It may be broken up into two or more locations to suit your site.
- Water may be provided with a puddling spot or shallow birdbath.
- Avoid using pesticides during the monarch breeding season and if possible go organic year round.

Hummingbird Moth image by: Distant Hill Gardens
Sources for Monarch garden plants can be found on the back panel.