



- The Monarch butterfly, one of North America's most amazing creatures, relies solely upon Milkweed for its survival. Female Monarch butterflies are drawn to Milkweed, the only type of plant they'll lay their eggs on. The toxins found in Milkweed, when ingested by caterpillars, create a defense mechanism that makes them unpalatable to predators. Unfortunately, see Milkweed as an same toxins that may eaten. For many gardeners, an unwanted guest in their weeded out. Due to this on Milkweed, and the habitat to face, the Monarch butterfly in population since 2004 - to reverse this trend, more our gardens and landscapes.



many farmers and landowners unwelcome pest due to these endanger their animals if Milkweed is nothing more than flower beds that must be prevalent negative perspective loss that Milkweed continues has suffered a critical decline 2005. To stop, and even begin Milkweed must be added to Many others have already

started to do their part by planting more [Milkweed for Monarchs](#), but much more is needed. You can join the movement and help to save the Monarchs by planting Milkweed! Parsons' Gardens has several types of Milkweed to choose from and we'd love to help you select the varieties that will perfectly fit into your outdoor space!

- Jay Parsons



Butterfly Weed - *Asclepias tuberosa* * 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year *

- Height: 2-3 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Orange
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host Plant for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Rough Blazing Star, Prairie Coreopsis, Wild Bergamot, & Native Grasses



Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pink & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Stiff Goldenrod, Rough Blazing Star, Sky Blue Aster, & Native Grasses



Narrow-leaved Milkweed - *Asclepias stenophylla*

- Height: 2-3 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Oklahoma
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: White & Green
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Rough Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, Purple Poppy Mallow, & Native Grasses



* The following sources were used when gathering information & pictures for this native plant list:
- www.kansasnativeplants.com - www.plants.usda.gov - www.prairiemoon.com - www.prairienuresery.com -



Poke Milkweed - *Asclepias exaltata*

- Height: 3-5 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, & Minnesota
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Partial Sun in Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pinkish White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Sweet Joe Pye Weed & Golden Alexander



Prairie Milkweed - *Asclepias sullivantii*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Medium to Wet Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Lavender & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Golden Alexander, Monkeyflower, Prairie Blazing Star, & Common Ironweed



Short Green Milkweed - *Asclepias viridiflora*

- Height: 1-2 feet - Width: ½-1 foot - Native to Western Kansas & Nebraska & Northern Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June & July - Color: Green
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Prairie Coreopsis, Butterfly Weed, Rose Verbena, & Native Grasses



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Showy Milkweed - *Asclepias speciosa*

- Height: 2-4 feet - Width: 2-3 feet - Native to Western Kansas & Nebraska & Northern Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pink
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Stiff Goldenrod, Pale Purple Coneflower, Rough Blazing Star, & Native Grasses



Spider Milkweed - *Asclepias viridis* * 2015 Kansas Wildflower of the Year *

- Height: 1-2 feet - Width: 2-3 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, & Nebraska
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot & Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: May & June - Color: Creamy White & Purple
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Purple Poppy Mallow, Rough Blazing Star, Prairie Coreopsis, & Native Grasses



Swamp Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnate*

- Height: 3-5 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Fibrous Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Medium to Wet Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: Pink & White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: New England Aster, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, & Sweet Joe Pye Weed



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Tall Green Milkweed - *Asclepias hirtella*

- Height: 3-4 feet - Width: 1-2 feet - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, & Oklahoma
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Taproot
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: June, July, & August - Color: White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Rough Blazing Star, Pale Purple Coneflower, & Native Grasses



Whorled Milkweed - *Asclepias verticillata*

- Height: 1-2 feet - Width: 1 foot - Native to Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa
- Growth: Upright Wildflower - Rhizomatic Roots
- Ideal Growing Conditions: Full to Partial Sun in Dry to Medium Soils
- Flowers: July, August, & September - Color: White
- Wildlife Benefit: Nectar Source & Larval Host for Monarch Butterfly
- Partner Plants: Hoary Vervain, Sky Blue Aster, Purple Prairie Clover, & Native Grasses



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Interested in adding a butterfly garden or Monarch Waystation to your outdoor space?



Ask us about our...

Monarch Magnet
butterfly garden

...we'd love to help!!!