How to make a monarch habitat for less than $25!

Supply list:

* 5 fence pickets-treated lumber. I used pine wood. These require cutting to make the desired 1-1/2 inch thickness, you could buy 1x2 wood and this would eliminate one cutting step, however it will be a tad more in cost.
* Screen- metal or vinyl
* Table saw and Mitre saw
* Wood glue
* Two small hinges
* Small handle (optional)
* Eye hook for door lock
* Staple gun
* Brad nailer and or screwdriver
* Tape measurer/level

The first thing you’re going to want to do is just make all your cuts from the fence pickets for the sides.
I chose to use fence pickets because they are treated, and they are the cheapest lumber you could buy! You’re essentially making a long skinny box! Once complete you’re going to have EIGHT 36 inch pieces FOUR 24 inch pieces and FOUR 13 inch pieces. All of these are going to be cut out of 45° angle to make the box!

You’re going to need to get one extra diagonal piece of Pickett and add it to the door. This is simply for support (but also for aesthetics).

Your end measurements are going to be 24 inches wide by 36 inches tall by 16 inches deep.
There’s no magic trick, you can make it thicker if you’d like (I wouldn’t make it thinner)- this box was cut with every piece one and a half inches wide.

Remember we are connecting a box, so your 16 inch deep measurement will actually be 13 inch pieces that you’re cutting- this accounts for the 1-1/2 inches on each side- making the total deep measurement 16 inches.

After you have all your pieces of wood cut, you’ll want to construct each box individually. This will allow you to then attach the screen individually to ensure that it is tight. You can either use vinyl or metal screen.

Connect the screen with a simple staple gun.

Once all the screen is attached you can now construct your box! The easiest thing to use when attaching each side to complete your box is a nail gun. We also added some wood glue before nailing to each corner for added security.

 You can use screws, you will want to pre-drill your holes to ensure the wood doesn’t split.
 Grab your two hinges and put the “front” door on!

I added two small braces to each side of the butterfly box, this serves as support but also will serve as something you can rest a branch or like object on for the caterpillar’s to chrysalis on.
Now you have a complete box!

The next thing to do is to make a top and a bottom. I made the top and the bottom out of scrap pick up pieces! You could do this with anything if it was treated lumber.

Once the top and the bottom or on your almost finished, I would suggest adding a small handle to the front and something to secure it shut Like an eye-hook.

Place your butterfly box somewhere out of direct sunlight and out of the direct elements like rain/wind.

Happy cat hunting! 😊