

ENDANGERED



The monarch butterfly is now listed as endangered.

The iconic butterfly lives in fields, parks, farms, and rural areas where milkweed and native plants are common. Its bright orange and black wings make it one of Minnesota's most recognizable pollinators.

Milkweed is essential for Monarch butterflies as it is the only food source they use to reproduce.



A pollinator is an animal that causes plants to make fruit or seeds. They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another. This pollen then fertilizes the plant allowing it to make fruit or seeds; without them plants cannot reproduce.

Private land management for Monarch butterflies

Endangered and in need of help

The population of pollinators in general, and monarch butterflies, in particular, have been on a steep decline over the past decade. But there are ways land-owners can make a difference...



Save the Monarchy!

What can be done?

To help the population, a grass-roots movement of homeowners, business owners, foresters, and agricultural professionals has been planting native pollinator gardens containing the essential milkweed plant. Monarchs eat the nectar of various flowering plants, but their larvae eat ONLY milkweed.



Protect Monarch butterflies from pesticides.

The widespread use of the herbicide glyphosate, also known as "Round Up" has virtually eliminated milkweed from agricultural fields across the Midwest.

The best solution to this problem currently is Integrated pest management. Where landowners and agricultural professionals use a variety of non-chemical tools such like "diversified crop rotations" and "cover crops" to help break up pest cycles, thereby greatly reducing the need for pesticides. These practices also provide the benefit of regenerating soil, making it more productive and nutrient rich.

Assistance for conservation-minded landowners.

Your local SWCD has been at the forefront of the monarch/pollinator movement and can help you get involved as well. The most important step to help the monarchs right now is simply to include native flowers, most importantly "Milkweed" in your landscaping, fields, and flower gardens.



Want to grow pollinator friendly habitats?

Contact us today!
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