

March



Creating a Monarch Waystation  
28, 2020  
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**Monarch life cycle:** egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly. Caterpillars eat only milkweed. Butterflies drink nectar.

The migrating monarchs are the great-great-grandchildren of the previous spring's migrating monarchs.

- Last fall's migrants are returning to Texas in now.
  - Their offspring (children) will fly north to breed through May.
  - Grandchildren butterflies are produced in June across the US and Canada.
  - Great-grandchildren butterflies are produced in July.
  - In August the great-great-grandchildren are produced and migrate to Mexico.
  - Some of the migrants become reproductive in Texas and Oklahoma and produce a 5<sup>th</sup> generation of butterflies that migrate to Mexico (great-great-great-grandchildren).
- ✓ There are many threats to the monarch, but the most significant is loss of habitat for the summer generations. For our area, it's lack of fall nectar sources to support the migration.
- ✓ Monarch Watch certifies Monarch Waystations across the continent, [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

A Monarch Waystation is characterized by:

- 100 square feet
- 6 hours of sun
- Plants close together
- Minimum 10 milkweed plants
- Minimum 4 varieties of nectar plants
- Low impact insect control

Recommended nectar plants- Spring

- Prairie Verbena, *Glandularia bipinnatifida*
- Elbow bush, *Forestiera pubescens*
- Indian hawthorn, *Rhaphiolepis indica*
- Siberian Wallflower, *Cheiranthus allonii*

Fall nectar plants

- Gregg's Mistflower, *Conoclinium greggii*
- Shrubby Boneset, *Eupatorium havanense*
- Sunflower, *Helianthus* sp.
- Lantana, *Lantana urticoides*
- Prairie Gayfeather, *Liatris mucronata*
- Turk's Cap, *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*

- Mealy Blue Sage, *Salvia farinacea*
- Shasta daisy, *Leucanthemum × superbum*
- Winecups, *Callirhoe involucrata*
- Mexican Plum, *Prunus mexicana*
- Goldenrod, *Solidago* sp.
- Fall Asters, *Symphyotrichum* sp.
- Mexican Bush Sage, *Salvia leucantha*
- Autumn Sage, *Salvia greggii*
- Mexican Sunflower, *Tithonia rotundifolia*
- Frostweed, *Verbesina virginica*
- Zexmenia, *Wedelia hispida*

For information on citizen science, visit [www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org)