

# 5 steps for a Certified Monarch Waystation

The Lexington chapter of Wild Ones encourages you to create a Certified Monarch Waystation; a habitat for monarchs as well as other butterflies and pollinators. Monarch Waystations are sponsored by Monarch Watch ([www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org)), a program at the University of Kansas with a focus on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. Monarchs are facing serious challenges. Waystations are one way we can increase public awareness of the plight of monarchs and contribute to efforts to save them.

Here's how to get started:

- 1. Determine size and location:** Butterfly plants need sun. There is no required size, but Monarch Watch suggests a minimum of 100 square feet. The total area may be split into several locations.
- 2. Plant 10 or more milkweed plants.** A monarch waystation requires a minimum of 10 plants, preferably two or more species. Milkweeds that bloom at different times increase the chances for seeing monarchs over a longer period. Milkweeds do best in an area with at least six hours of sun a day.
- 3. Plant a minimum of 4 nectar plants.** Providing nectar throughout the growing season will increase your chances of attracting monarchs as well as other butterflies and pollinators. Nectar plants may be trees, shrubs, or wildflowers. Fall-blooming plants are especially important to monarchs and other butterflies that migrate, such as buckeyes, and red admirals.
- 4. Management practices** which are encouraged include the following:
  - Manage the density of plants – relatively close together though not crowded, in order to provide shelter for caterpillars and chrysalises from predators and the elements.
  - Eliminate the use of insecticides and herbicides.
  - Remove old growth before the growing season, preferably in spring. Caution: some butterflies overwinter in the garden as eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalises. Fall clean-up may destroy next year's butterflies.
- 5. Complete the certification application.** Register your garden as a Certified Monarch Waystation by completing the form at: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>. Applications may be submitted online or printed to mail or fax. A \$16 processing fee is required for each certification. Your habitat will be included in an online registry of worldwide Monarch Waystations.

**NOTE:** You don't have to start from scratch. If you have an existing habitat that meets the requirements, or which can be modified to qualify, we hope you will apply for certification.