



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**E512139Z3**

**CONSERVATION**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

Establish Monarch butterfly habitat in pastures

**Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate Habitat**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years**

**Enhancement Description**

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species that can provide nectar for pollinators and forage and other habitat values for wildlife and livestock, particularly at times when targeted nectar, forage supply and quality, cover, and shelter are not available in other pastures.

**Criteria**

- This enhancement is acceptable for use when converting from cropland or degraded pastureland sites that require Forage and Biomass Planting (512) in order to stabilize the site to address a resource concern.
- Select native, perennial, grass/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, and will meet the nectar needs of Monarch butterflies at times when they will be present and foraging. These plants need to also provide forage or other habitat values for wildlife and livestock.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.



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- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- Plants will be selected that help meet nectar requirements for Monarch butterflies during times that the Monarch will be present. Plant selection will help to increase scores on the state's approved NRCS Monarch butterfly habitat evaluation.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- NRCS State approved Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as completed and certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist when applicable. Specific pollinator species targeted will be notated on the WHEG, and total score after implementation will equal 0.75 or greater.
- Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or amendments purchased.
- Completed forage balance sheet for farm/ranch and grazing records.