



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Monarch Butterflies....  
Populations are down  
Solutions are simple  
Private landowners  
are KEY!**



## To Learn More:

If you'd like to know more about the Illinois NRCS Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project or learn about other practices or plant species that can support pollinator habitat, contact your local NRCS office at your county USDA Service Center. Resources and information are also available online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/monarchs](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/monarchs).

**The Monarch Butterfly  
is Illinois' State Insect**

**Let's do what it takes to ensure  
they call Illinois "home."**

**Plant Milkweed!**



[www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov)

**Helping People Help the Land.**

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Illinois - June 2016

**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**

# Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project





USDA recently launched a new initiative to provide the precise food, plants, and habitat for Monarch Butterflies. Nationwide, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, will invest millions in this effort.

Illinois is one of nine states that make up the Monarch's migration route from central Mexico to Canada. Illinois lies at the heart of their journey, making efforts here especially important.



## The Problem:

The key habitat and plant species that Monarch Butterflies require for food and reproduction have gradually disappeared from the landscape. Here in Illinois, our prime soils and productive farmland are covered with crops—corn, soybeans, and wheat. But these crops mean nothing if we don't leave room for special habitat gaps, creating diverse areas for Monarchs and other pollinator species so crucial to Ag production.

If every landowner, every farmer, every city, community, homeowner, school, and business dedicated some part of their land to the effort and planted a native milkweed species, we could create a more diverse landscape. We can create a landscape where Monarchs can thrive.



## The Program:

The Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project will use funds from NRCS's **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**, known as "EQIP." With EQIP and NRCS, landowners can access both financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation practices on the ground that support native milkweed plants and other early- to late-blooming nectar plants. NRCS also has funds available to use on land already in the conservation easement program known as the **Wetlands Reserve Program, or WRP**. These are lands already set aside for wildlife that can be further enhanced to provide for the specific needs of Monarch Butterflies. The **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** is another federal program that can provide landowners with new options that support the creation of enhancements for Monarch habitat.



BUTTERFLY MILKWEED



COMMON MILKWEED



PURPLE MILKWEED



SWAMP MILKWEED