



## Monarch Butterfly Garden Planting Guide

### 3 Step Planting Guide

*These steps are for planting small plants, or ‘plugs’, into new garden beds. Plugs can also be planted right into existing garden beds with no further preparation. To enhance plant growth, add about 1 lb of organic fertilizer and 4 cubic feet of mulch per dozen plants.*

1. **Prepare:** Find an area that gets at least a half a day or more of sun. Clear out about 2-3 square feet for each plant.
2. **Plant:** Plant each plug about 2-3 feet apart in the sections you’ve cleared out. If available, add about three tablespoons of organic fertilizer to each planting hole to provide a boost of nutrients for your young plants.
3. **Protect:** Conserve water and prevent weed growth by mulching the planted area with about 2” of wood or leaf mulch. Continue watering until established.

### Suggested Plants for Wisconsin and Minnesota

*Adult monarch butterflies begin to appear in the Midwest from late May to September. Plant mixes should include early, midrange, and late bloomers so that migrating adults can have nectar throughout the season. Make sure to also have a few milkweed plants, since monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed.*

Name	Height	Bloom Time
Common Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> )	2-3 ft.	June - Aug.
Butterfly Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> )	1-2.5 ft.	June - Aug.
Purple Prairie Clover ( <i>Dalea purpurea</i> )	1-3 ft.	June - Aug.
Swamp Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> )	3-4 ft.	July – Aug.
Prairie Blazingstar ( <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> )	2-5 ft.	July – Aug.
Meadow Blazingstar ( <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> )	1-3 ft.	July - Sept.
Showy Goldenrod ( <i>Solidago speciosa</i> )	2-3 ft.	July - Sept.
Stiff Goldenrod ( <i>Solidago rigida</i> )	3-5 ft.	Aug.- Sept.
New England Aster ( <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> )	3-6 ft.	Aug. -Sept.
Smooth Blue Aster ( <i>Aster laevis</i> )	1.5-2 ft.	Aug. - Oct.
Rough Blazingstar ( <i>Liatris aspera</i> )	2-3 ft.	Aug. – Oct.

**Questions?** Check out the Monarch Joint Venture at <http://monarchjointventure.org/> or contact Caitlin Smith at (715) 246-7784 ext. 115

# Plant ID

 <p>Common Milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>)</p>	 <p>Butterfly Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)</p>	 <p>Purple Prairie Clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)</p>
 <p>Swamp Milkweed<sup>1</sup> (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)</p>	 <p>Prairie Blazingstar<sup>2</sup> (<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>)</p>	 <p>Showy Goldenrod<sup>3</sup> (<i>Solidago speciosa</i>)</p>
 <p>Stiff Goldenrod<sup>3</sup> (<i>Solidago rigida</i>)</p>	 <p>New England Aster<sup>4</sup> (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>)</p>	 <p>Smooth Blue Aster<sup>3</sup> (<i>Aster laevis</i>)</p>
	 <p>Rough Blazingstar<sup>3</sup> (<i>Liatris aspera</i>)</p>	

1. Doug Goldman, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database  
2. Jeff McMillian, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

3. The Vagary. <http://thevagary.com/index.php>  
4. Prairie Moon Nursery. <http://www.prairiemoon.com/>