Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
Information for Landowners

Background
Monarch butterfly populations have declined more than 80% in the past 20 years. To reverse this trend, we need to know more about monarch habitat needs, reproduction, and survival. The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP), led by the Monarch Joint Venture, is a national program to collect information about monarchs and their habitats. This information is collected primarily by volunteers and will help scientists understand the threats monarchs face and inform habitat enhancement strategies.

How your property fits
This project studies habitat for monarchs throughout the country based on randomly located samples. Your property is included completely by chance; monitoring it along with many other sites will help us understand habitat trends across the landscape. With the random sampling design, not all sites visited will contain monarch habitat.

What do monarchs need?
Adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers, so planting a variety of plants that bloom at different times of the year can greatly benefit them. Additionally, monarchs only lay their eggs on milkweed plants, and their caterpillars only eat milkweed. Several species of milkweed grow well in a variety of areas and provide beautiful blooms (see image to right).

Plants and monarchs
If granted permission, an IMMP staff member or volunteer may examine the plants on your property and look for monarchs, including eggs and caterpillars. They may also walk through the area to look for adult monarchs.

How often will the surveys be done?
Depending on your preference, monitoring may happen once a month during the growing season. If monarchs are using your property, surveys could be more frequent. Landowners may indicate the frequency of visits they are comfortable with and may choose to continue making their site available in future years.

What will we do with data collected?
Monarch, milkweed, and blooming plant data will go into a national database that scientists use to analyze trends in monarch populations and available habitat. Personal landowner information is not a part of this database.

Thank you for helping Team Monarch!
Thank you for considering permitting access to your property for the benefit of monarch conservation. We hope you are excited to participate in this study by allowing volunteer scientists to monitor on your land. Given that over 70% of U.S. land is privately owned, you play a critical role in the comeback of monarch butterflies. Please contact us with any questions, or if you would like to help survey this route! Thank you again for helping Team Monarch!

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