Milkweed Mates

Insects Frequently Found on Milkweed

Monarch Butterfly
*Danaus plexippus*

Milkweed Beetle
*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*

Small Milkweed Bug
*Lygaeus kalmii*

Milkweed Tussock Moth Caterpillar
*Euchaetes egle*

Milkweed Leaf Beetle
*Labidomera clivicollis*

Oleander Aphids
*Aphis nerii*

By Catherine McManus, 2018 APS REU Student, supported by grant program no. 2017-67032-26018 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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Save the Monarchs
Planting Your Own Milkweed

Milkweed is vital for monarch survival as it is the only plant that the larvae feed on. In response to recent milkweed loss due to modern agricultural practices and widespread pesticide use, the monarch population has dropped by 90%. To combat this, you can add milkweed to your own garden. There are multiple species that are native to Nebraska that can be chosen depending on the soil type, sun exposure, and moisture conditions of your garden.

**Common Milkweed**
Grows 3-5 feet tall with large pink flowers that bloom in June, requires sun, grows well in most garden soils, plant 18” apart

**Whorled Milkweed**
Grows 1-3 feet tall, best in dry conditions, plant 18” apart
*Warning*: This species is more toxic than other milkweed species, be careful with pets and livestock

**Butterfly Weed**
Grows 1-2 feet tall with bright orange flowers that bloom in May, best in dry conditions, plant 18” apart

**Swamp Milkweed**
Grows 2-4 feet tall with purple flowers, requires watering if not in a wet environment, establishes clumps, plant 30” apart

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