

Southwest Monarch Study

CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH,
EDUCATION, AND CONSERVATION

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Monarch Restoration Guide – Arizona

The charts below give our recommendations for Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), Riparian Nectar sources, and Nectar (Forbs, Shrubs, Trees) favored by monarch butterflies and pollinators in Arizona. They are based on research of the monarch migration and breeding habitats since 2003, consisting of tagging and sighting reports to the Southwest Monarch Study. A map of planting elevations and a detailed explanation of ideal monarch habitats including the need for milkweed, nectar, trees and a moisture source are listed in our accompanying publication:

Monarch Habitat Restoration in Arizona

www.swmonarchs.org/MonarchHabitatRestorationArizona.pdf

For the best success use locally sourced seeds adapted to your location. Leave a minimum of 30% of seeds for future generations.

Milkweeds, Riparian Nectar, Forbs, Shrubs, Trees

Note: Please verify native species for your area: www.swbiodiversity.org/seinet or www.bonap.net/napa

Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i>) Common Name	Scientific Name	High Elev	Mid Elev West	Mid Elev East	Low Elev Deserts
Spider/Antelope Horns	<i>Asclepias asperula</i>	x	x	x	x [†]
Arizona*	<i>Asclepias angustifolia</i> *			x	
Broadleaf	<i>Asclepias latifolia</i>		x	x	
Pineleaf	<i>Asclepias linaria</i>			x	x
Mohave	<i>Asclepias nyctaginifolia</i>	x	x	x	x
Showy*	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i> *	x			
Rush (Desert)*	<i>Asclepias subulata</i> *				x
Horsetail*	<i>Asclepias subverticillata</i> *	x	x	x	
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	x	x	x	

*Monarch favorites

[†]Above 640 m elevation

Note: Please verify native species for your area: www.swbiodiversity.org/seinet or www.bonap.net/napa

Bloom: 1 = Spring 2 = Summer 3 = Fall 4 = Winter (Low Elevation Deserts)

Riparian Nectar Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Season	High Elev	Mid Elev West	Mid Elev East	Low Elev Deserts
Smooth Beggarticks*	<i>Bidens laevis</i> *	3	x	x	x	
Seep Willow*	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> *	1 2 3 4		x	x	x
Arrowweed	<i>Pluchea sericea</i>	1 4				x
Common Buttonbush*	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> *	2				x
Thistles (native)*	<i>Cirsium spp.</i> *	1 2 3 4	x	x	x	x

*Monarch favorites

Forbs Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Season	High Elev	Mid Elev West	Mid Elev East	Low Elev Deserts
Chocolate Flower	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	1 2			x	
Common Sunflower*	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> *	1 2 3	x	x	x	x
Golden Crownbeard*	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i> *	2 3	x	x	x	x
Gooding's Verbena	<i>Glandularia goodingii</i>	1 2	x	x	x	x
MacDougal Verbena	<i>Verbena macdougalii</i>	2 3	x			
Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea spp.</i>	1 2	x	x	x	x
Goldenrod*	<i>Solidago spp.</i> *	2 3	x	x	x	x [†]
Rocky Mtn Zinnia	<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i>	1 2	x	x	x	
Tansyaster spp.	<i>Machaeranthera spp.</i>	2 3	x	x	x	x
AZ Sunflowerweed	<i>Tithonia thurberi</i>	2 3			x	

*Monarch favorites

[†]Above 640 m elevation

Shrubs Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Season	High Elev	Mid Elev West	Mid Elev East	Low Elev Deserts
Sweetbush*	<i>Bebbia juncea</i> *	1 3		x	x	x
Rabbitbrush*	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> *	3	x	x	x	
Baccharis*	<i>Baccharis spp.</i>	1 2 3	x	x	x	x
Threadleaf Ragwort	<i>Senecio flaccidus</i>	1	x	x	x	
Wolfberry	<i>Lycium spp.</i>	1 2 3 4	x	x	x	x
Red Barberry	<i>Mahonia haematocarpa</i>	1 4	x	x	x	x
Sugar Sumac	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	1		x	x	x [†]
Arizona Thistle	<i>Cirsium arizonicum</i>	2	x	x	x	
Bee Brush	<i>Aloysia wrightii</i>	1 2 3		x	x	x
Trixis	<i>Trixis californica</i>	1 3				x

*Monarch favorites

[†]Above 640 m elevation

Trees Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Season	High Elev	Mid Elev West	Mid Elev East	Low Elev Deserts
Velvet Mesquite	<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	1		x	x	x
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	1		x	x	x
Palo Verde	<i>Parkinsonia spp.</i>	1		x	x	x
Western Soapberry	<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	2		x	x	
New Mexico Locust	<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	1 2	x	x	x	