Pollinator & Plant Partnerships

Like the monarch, many of our local pollinators are specialists – if their specific host plant disappears from a site...so do they. Host plants may be a grass, wildflower, vine, shrub or tree. Here are a few other examples of some of our specialist pollinators and their required host plants.

During the breeding season monarchs require milkweed plants upon which to rear their larvae and nectar sources to sustain the adults during reproduction. Nectar sources are also required by the butterflies to fuel the fall migration to Mexico as well as the spring flights northward. Overwintering monarchs require shelter and water.

All of these resources are diminishing. In the United States, 6000 acres are converted to development each day, eliminating milkweeds needed by monarch larvae and nectar sources required by adult monarchs. Chemically intensive agriculture and roadside management by excessive mowing and use of herbicides have also eliminated monarchs and their milkweed hosts. This site provides milkweed host plants and nectar food sources for adult butterflies. For more information on creating a Monarch Waystation visit www.MonarchWatch.org.

Lettered Sphinx and grape
Eyed Brown and sedges
Dusted Skipper and little bluestem
Banded Hairstreak and oaks

Butterfly Weed
Common Milkweed
Swamp Milkweed

Meadow Fritillary and violets
Karner Blue Butterfly and wild lupine