Monarch Emerging from Chrysalis





Monarch Generations





ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



Oyamel Fir Trees





Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico

Winter Season

Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2003-2016 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT



Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico

Equals 1.3 – 1.8 billion MORE stems of milkweed in the Midwest



Ohio in Core Monarch Breeding Area



What's Happening to Pollinators?

- Dramatic Change to the Landscape
 - 2008 2011: 23,681,611 total acres of Grassland/Wetlands/Shrub Lands converted to Cropland



What's Happening to Pollinators?

• Lawns

 Approximately 40 million U.S. acres are planted as lawn (residential/commercial properties, golf courses

 More land in the U.S. are planted as lawns that irrigated crops (corn or wheat)

 Areas of lawn that include only one type of plant (turf grass) do not provide habitat for wildlife

What's Happening to Pollinators?

- Herbicides
 - Applied for weed control and for site preparation
 - Broadcast spraying destroys more plants than just the targeted weeds
- Insecticides
 - Target insects, including pollinators like bees
 - Depending on the active ingredients and how the pesticide are applied, pesticides can kill insects on contact or can be carried back to the hive/nest and harm future generations
 - Neonicotinoids: systematic insecticide make the plant itself toxic, from seed to nectar



Why We Need to Create Pollinator Habitat



What to Pollinators and Monarchs Need?

- Flowers
 - Preferably native, with blooms occurring throughout the 3 growing seasons
- Host Plants
 - Lepidopteran species (butterflies and moths) often require specific plant species for their caterpillars
 - Milkweeds are essential for monarchs
 - Other native species of grasses, forbs, and trees
- Nesting and roosting sites
 - Trees, downed woody debris, bare ground, and dead stems





Pollinator Habitat: Site Prep

- Research Homeowners' Association rules, community covenants or local weed ordinances that may apply.
- Talk with your neighbors
 - Natural landscaping: aesthetic and ecological benefits
- One section at a time
 - Give neighbors time to get accustomed to your yard's new look
- Remove Grass
 - Covering grass and allowing it to die back
 - 4-6 weeks
- Amend Soil
 - Organic fertilizers feed plants and soil





Pollinator Habitats: Plant Selection

Native Plants

- Plants that pollinators evolved with and rely upon
- Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur
- Ecoregional guides for native plants can be downloaded at <u>http://www.pollinator.org/guides</u>







Pollinator Habitats: Native Plants



Attracting Butterflies and Bees

- Plant for continuous bloom
 - Use a variety of native plants with various bloom times (early spring to late fall)



Attracting Butterflies and Bees

- Pollinator Syndromes: Describe flower characteristics that may appeal to a particular type of pollinator
 - Blossom Color
 - Nectar Guides
 - Odor
 - Amount of Nectar
 - Amount of Pollen
 - Flower Shape











Host Plants

- Milkweed for Monarchs
- Sassafras for Spicebush Swallowtails
- Parsley, Queen Anne's Lace, Zizea for Black Swallowtails
- Tulip Poplar for Eastern Tiger Swallowtails
- Common Rue for Giant Swallowtails
- Pawpaw for Zebra Swallowtails



Pollinator Habitats: Other Components

- Provide a place to rest
 - Flat stones provide places for butterflies to rest and bask in the sun
- Provide a place for puddling
 - Puddling: Drinking water and extracting minerals from damp puddles
 - Coarse sand in a shallow pan keep the sand moist
- Create insect hotels
 - Place for solitary bees and wasps to lay their eggs
 - Places for beneficial insects to find shelter









We Are All In This Together

• Approximately 40 million U.S. acres are planted as lawns





