



## YOU CAN Help! 2021

**Get ready now as spring starts early in California!**

Check out topics on my blog

[www.tinyurl.com/AllAboutMonarchs](http://www.tinyurl.com/AllAboutMonarchs)

**1. Plant Milkweed** in your garden, native is recommended. However, if you plant or have tropical milkweed (from Home Depot, Lowes, Armstrong's), COMMIT TO PRUNING it every year by MID-OCTOBER (earlier now) to 10" stems and **cut off all the leaves**. If you purchase tropical, insist on it being pesticide free.

[Pruning Tropical Milkweed in the Fall - Imperative for Monarch Butterfly Health | Vanderlip.com](#)

**2. Plant spring, summer and fall Nectar Plants** - Plan NOW and start to plant in February as soon as possible so monarchs have plenty to eat

- <https://vanderlip.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2020-BUTTERFLY-GARDENING-HANDOUT-.pdf>
- [Nectar Plants for Western Monarchs | Vanderlip.com](#)
- [GardeningforMonarchsUpdated.pdf \(monarchjointventure.org\)](#)

**3. Apply to Monarch Watch to certify your garden as a Monarch Waystation** to help promote awareness of the need to help our pollinators

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

**4. Use no pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides in your garden.** If a monarch caterpillar writhes and dies, it has likely been poisoned by pesticide. Tropical milkweed is sometimes tainted by growers that use pesticide. Let nurseries know if their milkweed kills your caterpillars.

**5. Advocate to others:** Encourage your community, schools, churches to plant monarch gardens. Ask your City mayor to take the Mayor's Pledge to plant for butterflies and pollinators.

Read more: [About \(nwf.org\)](#)

### Reputable Additional Resources

- [www.WesternMonarchAdvocates.com](http://www.WesternMonarchAdvocates.com)

Read my Fall Status report under State Updates for California  
[California | Western Monarch \(westernmonarchadvocates.com\)](http://www.westernmonarchadvocates.com)

- [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org) - Accurate and current info on all things monarch.

- [www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org) - Info on all things monarch butterfly. Helping to provide grants and seedlings.

- [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) - Premier research on invertebrates including monarchs and bees.

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