



# Tips for Creating Monarch Habitat on Protected Lands

*Written by the members of the Protected Lands Working Group of the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative*

- State, federal, other government agencies, land trusts, tribes, and private landowner with permanently protected lands should plant new plantings, interseed into existing plantings, and restore prairie and oaks savanna habitat by brush and invasive species removal to increase and improve monarch habitat.
- Private landowners are encouraged to permanently enroll land to be protected by land trusts or into a NRCS or FSA cost-share or incentive program.
- Organizations and individuals can assist by collecting seeds that can be planted on protected lands or assist with restoration efforts to improve monarch habitat.
- Restorations should include a variety of milkweeds and monarch nectar plants from spring through fall along with a wide variety of other prairie and savanna species to benefit other wildlife including invertebrates and birds. Restorations should also include a significant amount of milkweed stems of appropriate species.

## *Key Resources:*

- [Best Management Practices \(BMP's\) for Improving Pollinator Habitat in Prairies, Roadsides & Open Spaces](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPOpenSpaces.pdf) — The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the UW-Madison Department of Entomology facilitated the creation of a Pollinator Protection Plan, with input from stakeholders across the state. It seeks to improve public understanding of pollinator health issues and actions that affect pollinators and minimize risks to pollinators through voluntary actions that Wisconsin residents, businesses and agencies can take. The BMP's for Improving Pollinator Habitat in Prairies, Roadsides & Open Spaces includes information about pollinator establishment timelines, how to pick a seed mix, how to maximize native forb establishment, etc.  
(<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPOpenSpaces.pdf>)
- [Guidelines for Establishing a Prairie](https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/guidelinesII.pdf) — Prairie Restorations, Inc. of Minnesota developed this resource to inform anyone interested in establishing a prairie on their property, or property they manage.  
(<https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/guidelinesII.pdf>)



- [Pollinators in Natural Areas](#) — This short booklet produced by the Xerces Society provides a summary of how land managers can protect and provide habitat for bees, butterflies and pollinators. It includes potential impacts on fire, grazing, mowing, herbicides, and insecticides. It provides recommendations for how to adjust the use of these management actions to benefit pollinators.  
([https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/pollinators\\_in\\_natural\\_areas\\_xerces\\_society.pdf](https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/pollinators_in_natural_areas_xerces_society.pdf))