

Saving the endangered Monarch in your backyard

Tinicum Township's EAC

HOW DO I FIND MONARCHS?

Monarch caterpillars can be hard to spot at first, during the early stages of their lives they're very tiny. However, if you know where to look you can be successful finding caterpillars.

Monarchs feed solely on plants in the Milkweed genus, there are many different types but in our area you're most likely to see Swamp Milkweed (far left), Common Milkweed (left) or Butterfly Weed (bottom left). These plants all have a pretty uniform look and if broken will ooze a latex substance, but if you need help with identification, you can always employ a useful app such as PlantNet which allows identification through a quick picture taken from your phone.



 **Pl@ntNet**

IF YOU HAVE A FIELD OR WILD AREA THAT YOU MOW IN SUMMER OR EARLY FALL, YOU CAN SEARCH FOR CATERPILLARS AND RELOCATE THEM TO AN AREA OF YOUR YARD THAT HAS MILKWEED.



MOVING MONARCHS

If monarch caterpillars are in an area that is to be mowed, they will perish. If you have milkweed on your property you must mow, look for the caterpillars before to give them another home.

Moving monarchs is pretty simple, to find the caterpillars locate the host plants and check for plant damage where the caterpillars are feeding.

Caterpillars are best moved along with a long cutting of the plant which you can place upon the new host plants. If unable to move a cutting, gently remove caterpillars and use a container to transplant (for small caterpillars and eggs you must take a section of the plant because they're simply too fragile).

Chrysalis are harder to move can be moved with a section of the plant they're attached to. Be sure to make sure the chrysalis is fully formed as when they're freshly formed they are delicate and need a period to harden. If you are unsure when the pupation occurred, it is best to wait a day if the situation is not

Eastern Monarch populations have declined 80% over the past two decades. U.S. Fish and Wildlife has estimated up to an 80% probability of total population collapse within 50 years.

The iconic butterflies we all grew up enjoying seeing fluttering around our gardens may not be around for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.