

# Attracting Monarchs to Your Backyard with a Kid-Friendly Garden

Witnessing a caterpillar turn into a monarch butterfly is truly remarkable. If you're lucky, the whole family will watch this miraculous transformation unfold in your garden. You're never too old or young to learn something new about the fascinating life of the monarch butterfly.



## What you'll need:

- Potting Soil
- Rocks
- Sunshine
- Milkweed
- Decorations

## Step 1 Play with Dirt!

1



Milkweed grows best with good, healthy soil. Change into working clothes and fill a flower pot nearly to the top with soil. Make sure everyone digs in and feels the nutrient-rich soil. If your kids have a little too much fun with the dirt, document the memory with a picture!

## Step 2 Monarch Naptime

2



Even monarchs need a place to stop and rest. Have your little ones gather sticks and stones in the backyard to place in your container. Just like people, monarch butterflies need naps to stay healthy.

## Step 3 Find a Sunny Spot

3



Have the kids pick a bright, sunny place near their bedroom window, patio or sandbox. Remind your little ones that plants need sunshine to make food. Protect your monarchs and avoid a particularly windy location.

## Step 4 A Home for Caterpillars

4



Monarch mothers lay eggs on one plant: milkweed. Butterfly or Showy Milkweed grow in most climates (consult your local gardening expert). Healthy, watered milkweed increases your chances of spring monarchs stopping by and laying their eggs in your garden. Since the "milk" or sap inside of milkweed can be harmful when ingested, be mindful of very small children and pets.

## Step 5 Decorate Your Container

5



Monarch butterflies may have traveled all the way from Canada or Mexico to your backyard. Adding a sign to your garden will remind the whole family of this amazing, yearly migration.

- Take turns and draw butterflies on the container.
- Add glitter (not on plants or soil).
- Create cutouts of monarch butterflies and glue onto an ice pop stick.
- Write "Welcome to (Insert City or State)" on your sign.

## Nourishing Monarchs Together

As an agriculture company, we understand the importance of protecting habitats for monarch butterflies, birds, bees and other pollinators. We hope to continue to partner with fellow nature-lovers, conservationists, universities and farmers to create a more beautiful planet for all life to share. If we work together, share ideas and challenge ourselves, a bright future is ahead for both monarchs and people.



Learn more about our passion for protecting the monarch butterfly at [Discover.Monsanto.com](https://www.discovermonsanto.com)

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