



# PLANTING THE PATH FOR POLLINATORS

**Kevin Mink, Urban Soil Health Specialist  
ISA Certified Arborist**



# WHO AM I?





# TODAY'S JOURNEY

- **Why Modern Landscapes Don't Work**
- **The Cost → Money & Microfauna**
- **The Turf-inator**
- **Plant the Path for Pollinators!**
- **Certify your yard conservation efforts!**













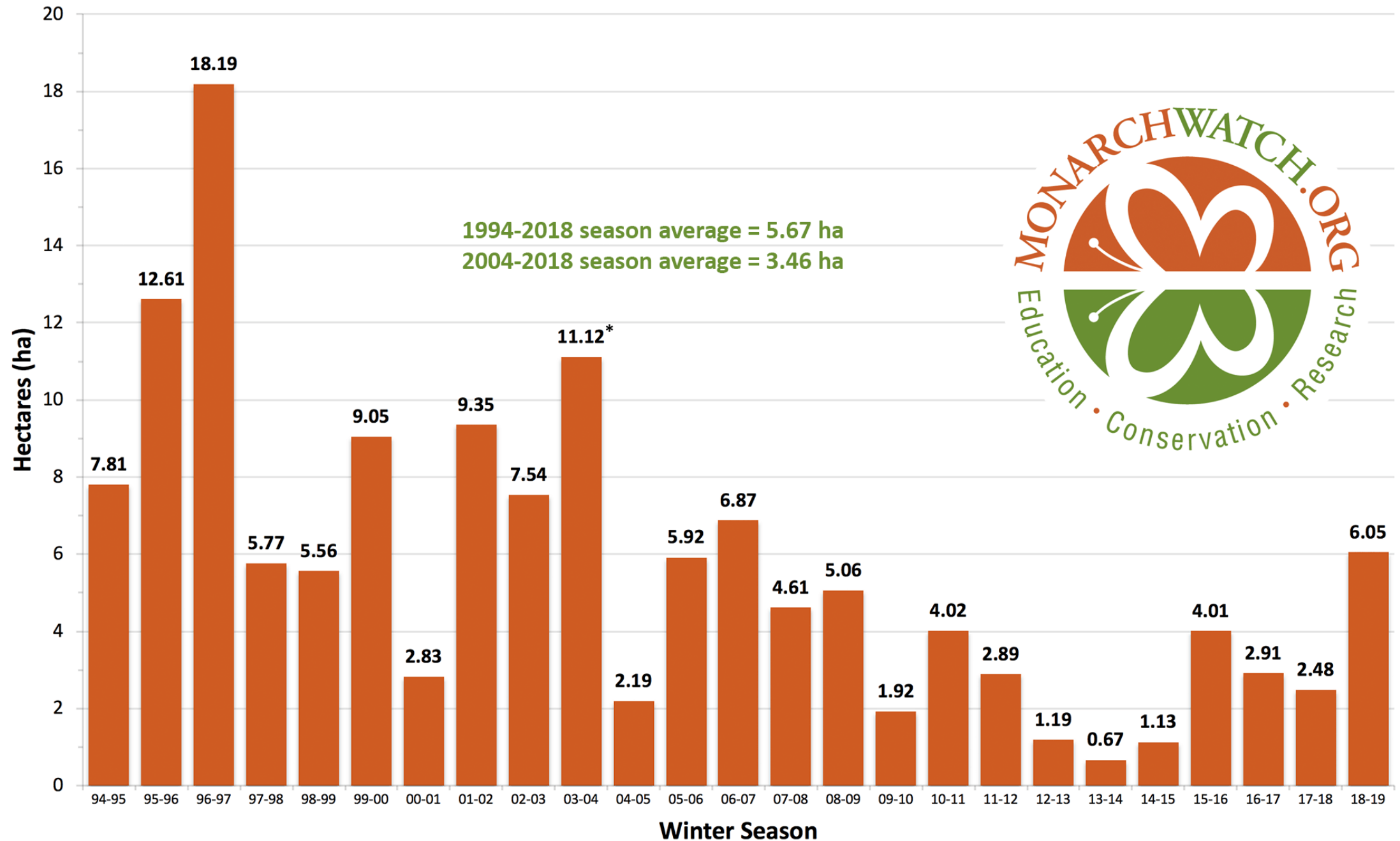


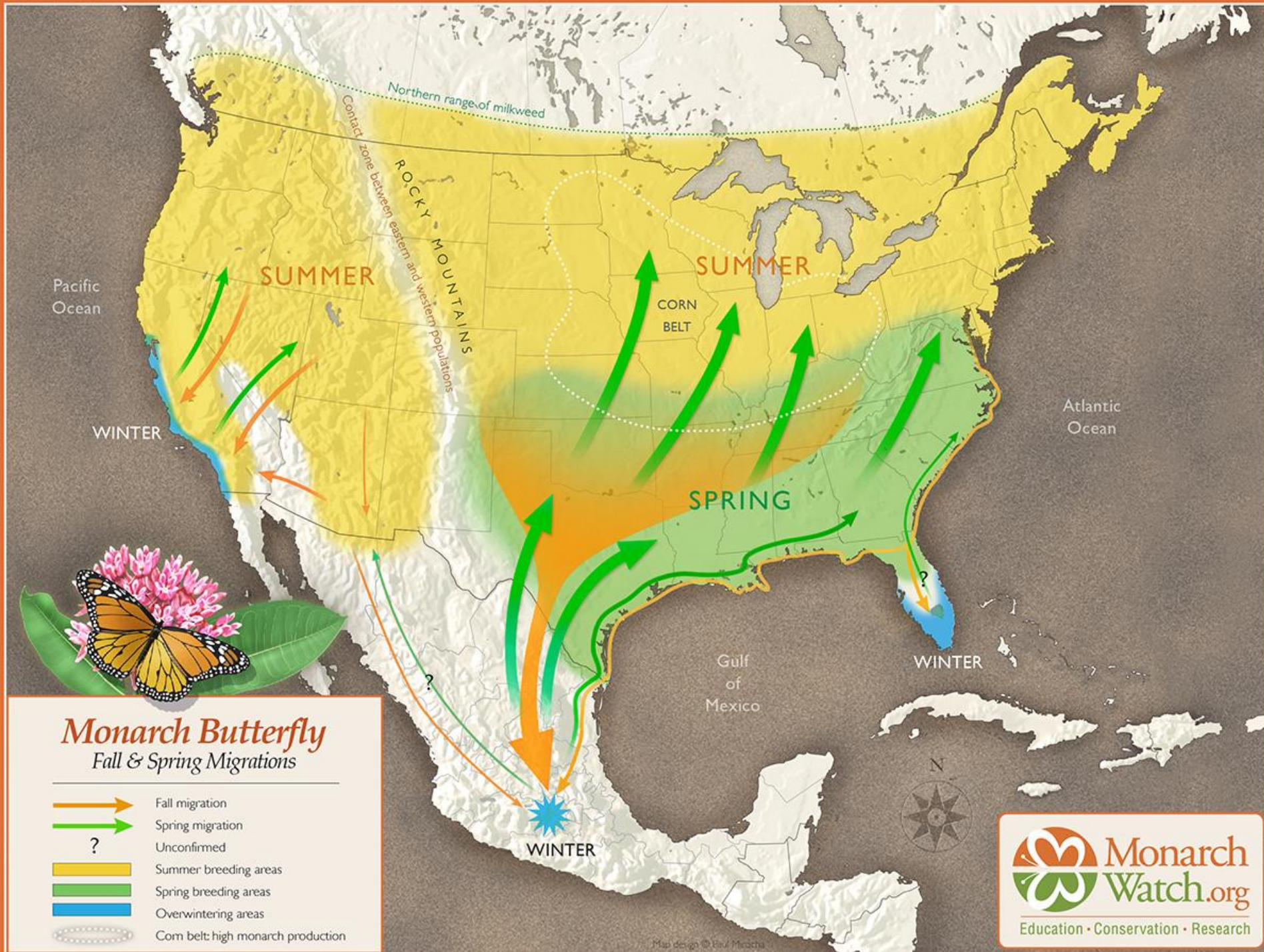
- **Monoculture of an introduced species**
- **Fertilizer and Pesticides applied**
- **Shallow root system**
- **Costly to maintain**
- **Almost zero habitat**
- **Little infiltration**





# Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico







# OKLAHOMA **MONARCH** AND **POLLINATOR** COLLABORATIVE



## NEED FOOD & SHELTER

- ▶ **Milkweed** is Monarch host plant (food and shelter for caterpillars)
- ▶ **Wildflower Nectar** fuels their wings (food for adult butterflies)




# OKLAHOMA MONARCH AND POLLINATOR COLLABORATIVE



## BUILD A GARDEN!

- ▶ At home or in the community
- ▶ Use seeds, plants or both!
- ▶ What to plant / where to buy  
[OkiesForMonarchs.org](http://OkiesForMonarchs.org)













### WHAT TO PLANT

12 Monarch Butterfly Plants Suitable Statewide

Visit [okiesformonarchs.org](http://okiesformonarchs.org) for regional plant lists.

For optimum Monarch habitat, plant at least 10 milkweed plants, made up of two or more species, and several annual, biennial, or perennial plants that are in bloom sequentially or continuously during spring, summer and fall.

EARLY BLOOM	 <p><b>BUTTERFLYWEED</b> <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>, likes full sun. Blooms in the spring. Grows .75-1' tall. High drought tolerance. Perennial. Host/nectar plant.</p>	 <p><b>GREEN MILKWEED</b> <i>Asclepias viridis</i>, likes full sun. Blooms spring to late summer. Grows 1-2' tall. Medium water use. Perennial. Host/nectar plant.</p>	 <p><b>GOLDEN CROWNBEARD</b> <i>Verbesina encelloides</i>, likes full sun. Blooms spring to early fall. Grows 1-3' tall. Low water use. Annual.</p>
	 <p><b>PURPLE CONEFLOWER</b> <i>Echinacea augustifolia</i>, likes full sun/partial shade. Blooms late spring to early summer. Grows 2-3' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN BLANKET</b> <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 1-1.5' tall. Medium water use. Annual.</p>	 <p><b>BEEBALM</b> <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>, likes full sun/partial shade. Blooms in the summer. Grows 2-4' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.</p>
	MID BLOOM	 <p><b>BASKET-FLOWER</b> <i>Centaurea americana</i>, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 3-4' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.</p>	 <p><b>MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER</b> <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 3-10' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.</p>
LATE BLOOM		 <p><b>MEXICAN HAT</b> <i>Ratibida columnifera</i>, likes full sun. Blooms mid summer. Grows 1-3' tall. Drought tolerant. Perennial.</p>	 <p><b>BLUE SAGE</b> <i>Salvia azurea</i>, likes partial shade. Blooms late summer to fall. Grows 3-6' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.</p>











# OKLAHOMA MONARCH AND POLLINATOR COLLABORATIVE



## AVOID COMPLAINTS

- ▶ **Clean Edges**
- ▶ **Border**
- ▶ **Communicate w/ Neighbors**

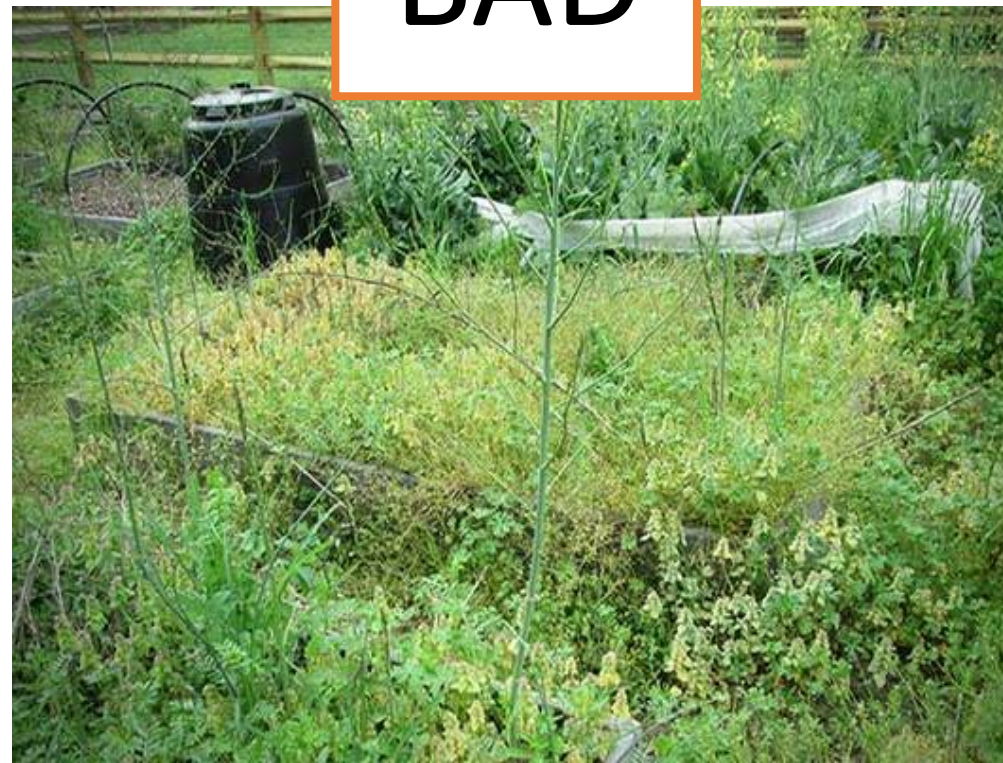
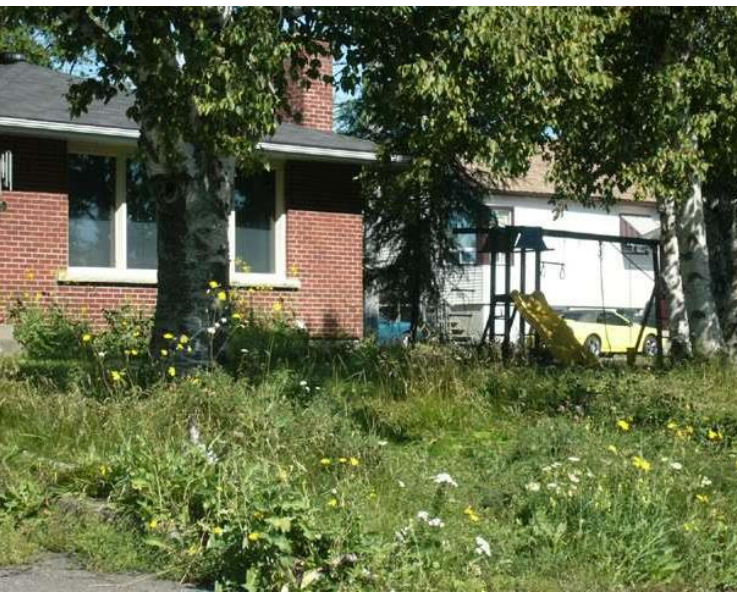
- ▶ **Post a Sign**  
MonarchWatch.org  
NWF.org







**BAD**







GOOD







GOOD



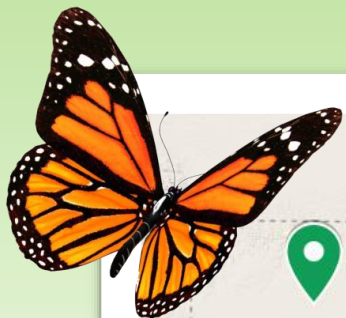




GOOD





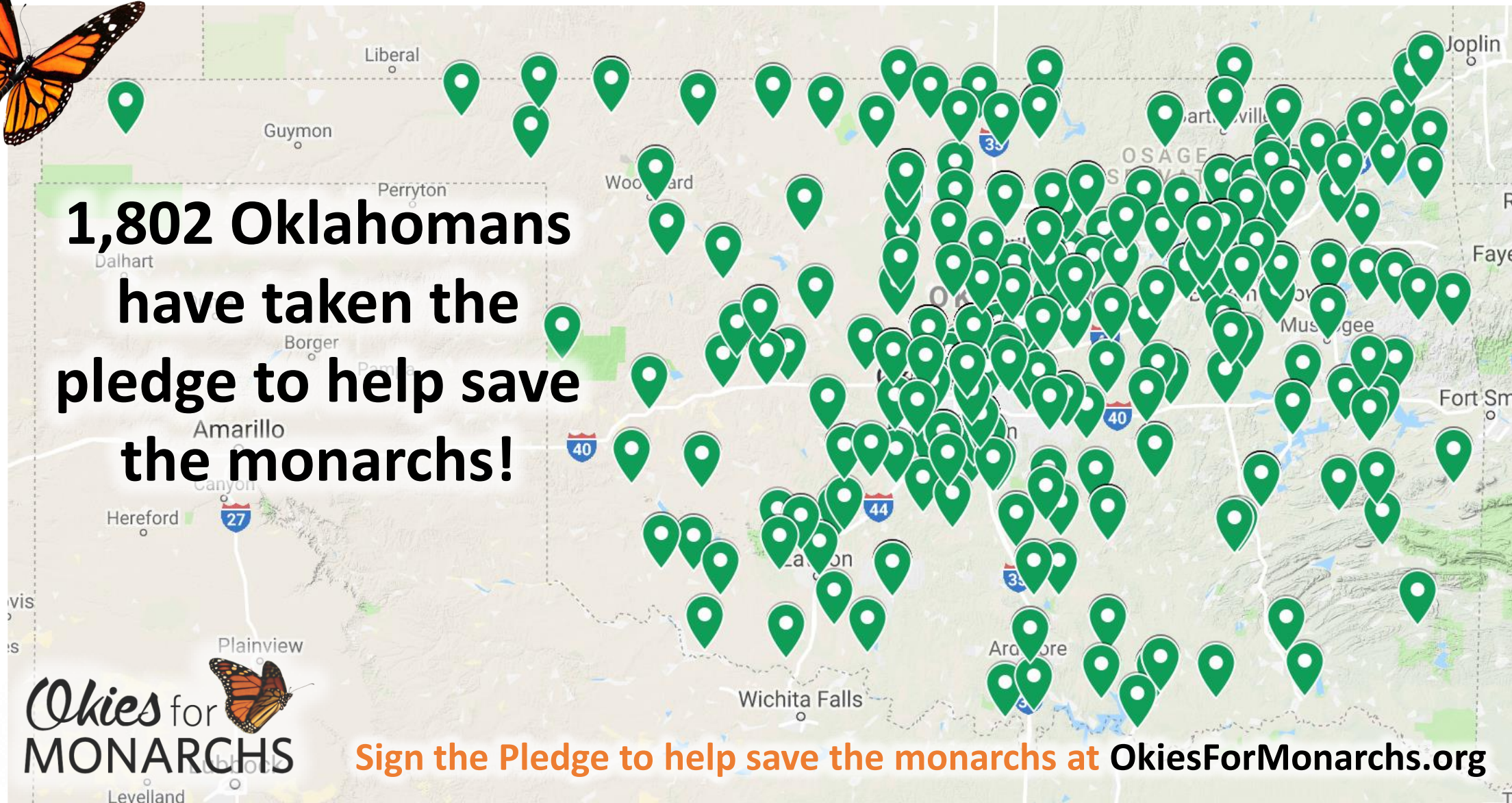


**1,802 Oklahomans  
have taken the  
pledge to help save  
the monarchs!**

**Okies for  
MONARCHS**



**Sign the Pledge to help save the monarchs at [OkiesForMonarchs.org](https://OkiesForMonarchs.org)**

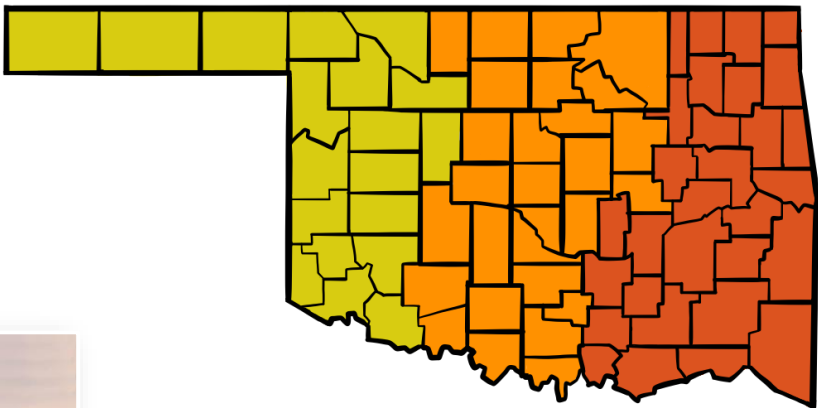




# OKLAHOMA MONARCH AND POLLINATOR COLLABORATIVE



## PLANT LISTS



For optimum Monarch habitat, plant at least 10 milkweed plants, made up of two or more species, and several annual, biennial, or perennial plants that are in bloom sequentially or continuously during spring, summer and fall.

EARLY BLOOM	 <b>BUTTERFLYWEED</b> Asclepias tuberosa, likes full sun. Blooms in the spring. Grows 75-11" tall. High drought tolerance. Perennial. Host/nectar plant.	 <b>GREEN MILKWEED</b> Asclepias viridis, likes full sun. Blooms spring to late summer. Grows 1-2' tall. Medium water use. Perennial. Host/nectar plant.	 <b>GOLDEN CROWNBEARD</b> Verbesina encelioides, likes full sun. Blooms spring to early fall. Grows 1-3' tall. Low water use. Annual.
	 <b>PURPLE CONEFLOWER</b> Echinacea angustifolia, likes full sun/partial shade. Blooms late spring to early summer. Grows 2-3' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.	 <b>INDIAN BLANKET</b> Gaillardia pulchella, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 1-1.5' tall. Medium water use. Annual.	 <b>BEEBALM</b> Monarda fistulosa, likes full sun/partial shade. Blooms in the summer. Grows 2-4' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.
	 <b>BASKET-FLOWER</b> Centaurea americana, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 3-4' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.	 <b>MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER</b> Helianthus maximiliani, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 3-10' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.	 <b>BLAZINGSTAR</b> Liatris punctata, likes full sun. Blooms in the summer. Grows 1-2' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.
MID BLOOM			
LATE BLOOM	 <b>MEXICAN HAT</b> Ratibida columnifera, likes full sun. Blooms mid-summer. Grows 1-3' tall. Drought tolerant. Perennial.	 <b>BLUE SAGE</b> Salvia azurea, likes partial shade. Blooms late summer to fall. Grows 1-3' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.	 <b>SHOWY GOLDENROD</b> Solidago speciosa, likes full sun. Blooms late summer to fall. Grows 2-3' tall. Medium water use. Perennial.



WESTERN  
CENTRAL  
EASTERN

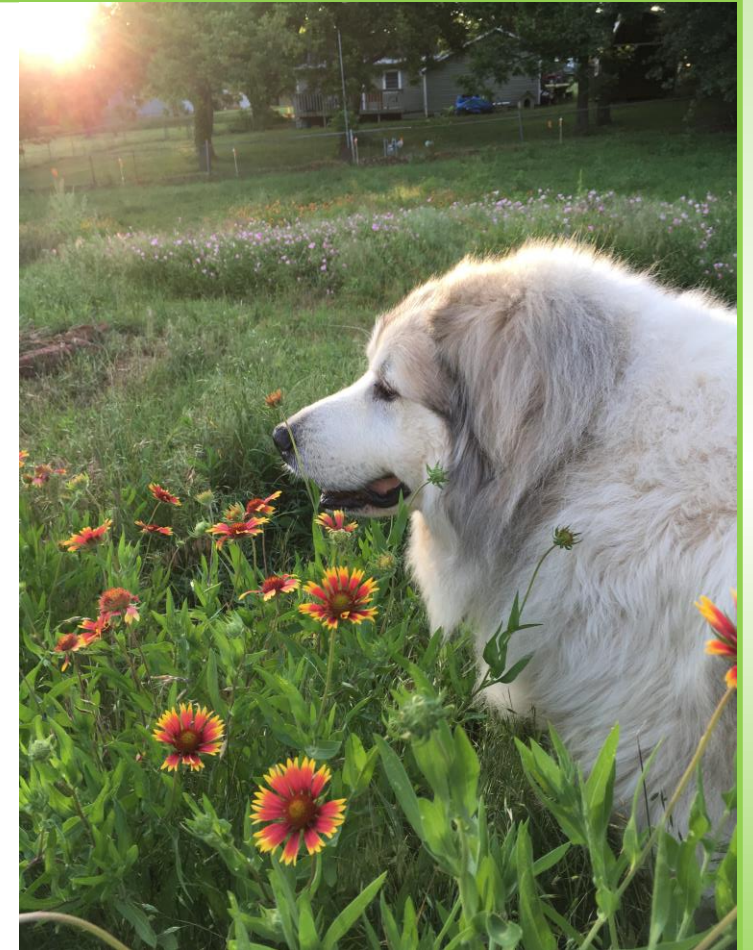


# OKLAHOMA **MONARCH** AND **POLLINATOR** COLLABORATIVE



## GET INVOLVED

- ▶ **Take the Pledge**
- ▶ **Build a Garden**
- ▶ **Register Your Garden**
- ▶ **Sign Up for Updates**
- ▶ **Report Sightings**
- ▶ **Attend an Event**
- ▶ **Get Your Community Involved**





# OKLAHOMA **MONARCH** AND **POLLINATOR** COLLABORATIVE



**OKIESFOR**MONARCHS**.ORG**

**FACEBOOK.COM/OKIESFORMONARCHS**

- ▶ **TAKE THE PLEDGE**
- ▶ **BUILD A GARDEN**
- ▶ **WHAT TO PLANT**
- ▶ **WHERE TO BUY**
- ▶ **TIPS FROM EXPERTS**
- ▶ **REGISTER**
- ▶ **EVENTS**
- ▶ **SUBSCRIBE**
- ▶ **SHOP**



# TACKLING CONSERVATION YARD BY YARD

- Promote native plant diversity
- Improve local water quality
- Promote local food production
- Decrease usage of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Decrease excess water usage from irrigation
- Create pollinator and wildlife habitat
- Promote land stewardship





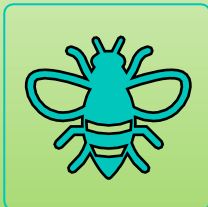
# SOIL



# WATER



# FOOD



# HABITAT







**I maintain a pesticide-free yard.**

**(This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications)**





# FOLLOW-UP & CERTIFICATION





**Kevin Mink**

**Urban Soil Health Specialist**

[Kevin.mink@usda.gov](mailto:Kevin.mink@usda.gov)

<https://www.okconservation.org/yardbyyard>

<https://www.facebook.com/OKcountyconservationdistrict>



**THANK YOU!**