

MONARCHS IN THE GARDEN

Erika Shank

I have always been happy to share my garden with all sorts of wildlife and I have made efforts to create a safe, friendly, pesticide-free environment. One spring I planted the native milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, in order to feed the butterflies. Once the plants were established I discovered hundreds of caterpillars feeding... they devoured the leaves in a very short time. You can imagine how thrilled I was to witness the entire life cycle of the Monarch.

To find out more about the many varieties of *Asclepias* and how to grow them visit www.wildflower.org and <http://www.butterflycounters.com/>



Once the butterfly emerges in all its glory it will need other native plants to thrive.



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