



Victoria Gardens Monarch Butterflies: Bushrod



The project goal is to plant 15 Butterfly Patches in the Bushrod neighborhood to increase habitat (host and nectar plants) for the Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*. Monarch Butterflies have 4 generations every year. They start their lives as caterpillars who only eat Milkweed *Asclepias*. The CA native, Narrow Leaf Milkweed *Asclepias fascicularis** is recommended for this location. Monarch Butterflies drink nectar from flowers. The following selection of native plants will provide a succession of blooms that support the butterflies during their active laying seasons from Spring through Fall. Shorter days and cooler nights signal the Narrow Leaf Milkweed *A. fascicularis* to go dormant, completely dying back to the ground in the fall. This is also the environmental signal to the butterflies to find a place to overwinter. The western population of Monarchs does not migrate to Mexico, but overwinters in about 100 sites along the California coast. Overwintering is when they bide their time, resting in trees, awaiting the arrival of warmer temperatures when the milkweed will emerge in the spring.

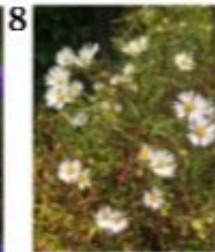
Appropriate Host Plant:



Narrow Leaf Milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis



Appropriate Nectar Plants:



- (1) Narrow Leaf Mules Ears-*Wyethia angustifolia* (2) Yarrow-*Achillea millefolium*
 (3) Checkerbloom-*Sidalcea malviflora* (4) Narrow Leaf Milkweed-*Asclepias fascicularis*
 (5) Gumplant-*Grindelia camporum* (6) Western Vervain-*Verbena lasiostachys* (7) Coyote
 Mint-*Monardella villosa* (8) Pacific Aster-*Symphotrichum chilense* (9) Goldenrod-*Solidago velutina*
 (10) Coyote Bush-*Baccharis pilularis* (11) Ithelial Spear-*Triteleia laxa* ** (12) Seaside
 Daisy-*Erigeron glaucus*

*Narrow Leaf Milkweed-*Asclepias fascicularis* is the most widely distributed of the Native California *Asclepias* species. A few specimens of this plant are recorded in Alameda County from the late 1800's and can be found in the Jepson Herbarium records. This shows that the species most likely grew here naturally prior to heavy development. The natural range of *A. fascicularis* covers the entire state of California.

***T. laxa* is suspected to be a valuable nectar plant for Monarchs but is not yet confirmed.