

## Pollinators

As many people have heard, there has been a large decline in the population of bees, pollinators and monarch butterflies in recent years. This has primarily been due to the loss of habitat and widespread use of herbicides across Midwest farmlands. This practice has drastically reduced the amount of plants available for pollinating insects and especially monarch butterflies, which require milkweeds to complete their life cycle. To help out pollinators and the monarch population, consider installing a butterfly or pollinator garden with as many milkweed and native prairie plant species as possible. If you see any volunteer common milkweed plants growing in wild or unmanaged areas of your yard please consider leaving the plant to grow so that it can provide habitat for the local monarch butterflies.