

A monarch caterpillar and a monarch butterfly are shown on a milkweed plant. The caterpillar, with its characteristic yellow and black stripes and two long black tail-like extensions, is positioned on the left, clinging to a green leaf. The butterfly, also displaying yellow and black stripes, is on the right, perched on a brown stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

# **The Milkweed Patch**

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## Anise hyssop

### *Agastache foeniculum*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality long season nectar for butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and many other pollinators.  
Long bloom time.  
Easy to grow; self-sows readily.  
Licorice smell which makes it deer and rabbit resistant.



## Thimbleweed

### *Anemone cylindrica*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - July
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** The abundant pollen of the flowers attract small bees and Syrphid flies.  
Great for home gardens.  
Deer resistant.



## Eastern red columbine

### *Aquilegia canadensis*

- Light:** Full sun to shade
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2 feet
- Bloom Time:** April - June
- Bloom Color:** Red
- Wildlife Value:** Critical early spring nectar.  
Hummingbird favorite!  
Deer resistant.



## Poke milkweed

### *Asclepias exaltata*

- Light:** Shade to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 5 feet
- Bloom Time:** June – July
- Bloom Color:** White to cream, drooping
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Deer resistant



## Tall green milkweed

### *Asclepias hirtella*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - August
- Bloom Color:** White, green
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Deer resistant



## Swamp milkweed

### *Asclepias incarnata*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 3-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - August
- Bloom Color:** Pink, fragrant
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Great for gardens and pots. Deer resistant



## Sullivant's milkweed

### *Asclepias sullivantii*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - August
- Bloom Color:** Pink
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Deep taproot – choose site wisely. Deer resistant



## Common milkweed

### *Asclepias syriaca*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 3-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - July
- Bloom Color:** Pink, fragrant
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Give this guy some room! Not recommended for small gardens. Deer resistant





## Butterfly weed *Asclepias tuberosa*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Dry
- Height:** 1-2 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - August
- Bloom Color:** Orange
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Behaves well in the garden but must not be overwatered. Deer resistant



## Whorled milkweed *Asclepias verticillata*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 1-2 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Creamy to greenish white
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Behaves well in the garden. Blooms later than other milkweeds. Deer resistant



## Spider milkweed

*Asclepias viridis*

**Light:** Full to partial sun

**Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

**Height:** 12-18 inches

**Bloom Time:** May - June

**Bloom Color:** White to yellow-green with a purple tinge

**Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth. Behaves well in the garden. Earliest blooming milkweed. Deer resistant



## Blue mistflower

*Conoclinium coelestinum*

**Light:** Full to partial sun

**Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry

**Height:** 2-3 feet

**Bloom Time:** August - October

**Bloom Color:** Purplish blue

**Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Host plant for several moths including Clymene moth. Can spread aggressively in moist open ground. Deer and rabbit resistant.





## Lance-leaved coreopsis

*Coreopsis lanceolata*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2 feet
- Bloom Time:** May - July
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. A long-tongued bee (*Melissodes coreopsis*) is a specialist pollinator of *Coreopsis* species. Long bloom time. Beekeepers consider all *Coreopsis* species to be good honey sources.



## Prairie coreopsis

*Coreopsis palmata*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - August
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Dead-heading flowers can prolong bloom time. Beekeepers consider all *Coreopsis* species to be good honey sources.



## American dittany

### *Cunila origanoides*

- Light:** Partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 12-18 inches
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purplish blue
- Wildlife Value:** Moderately important source of high-quality late nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Dittany is also known as Frostweed since it creates ice ribbons, also called ice flowers or ice fingers. During the early morning of a hard freeze, you may be able to see beautiful ice formations near its stem bases.  
Deer and rabbit resistant.



## Milkweed vine

### *Cynanchum laeve*

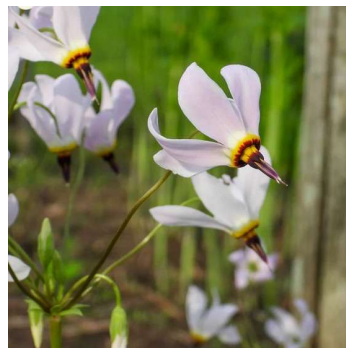
- Light:** Full sun to shade
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** Vine
- Bloom Time:** July - August
- Bloom Color:** Creamy white, fragrant
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Host plant for the monarch butterfly and the milkweed tussock moth.  
Vine grows continuously all summer. Give this guy room and a trellis.  
Deer resistant



## Shooting star

*Dodecatheon meadia*

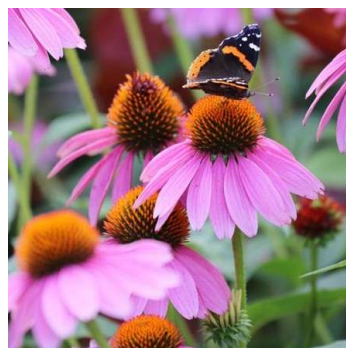
- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 12 inches
- Bloom Time:** April - June
- Bloom Color:** Pinkish white
- Wildlife Value:** Critical early spring nectar and pollen.  
Great for home gardens.  
Dormant by mid summer.



## Purple coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*

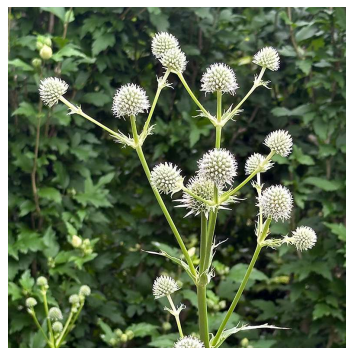
- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2-4 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purplish pink
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators.  
Goldfinches love to eat the seed.  
Hummingbird favorite.  
Can become aggressive.  
Deer resistant.



## Rattlesnake master

*Eryngium yuccifolium*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality late nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Host plant for black swallowtail.  
Leaves look like Yucca.  
Deer and rabbit resistant.



## Hollow joe pye weed

*Eutrochium fistulosum*

- Light:** Full sun to shade
- Soil:** Wet, Medium-Wet
- Height:** 6 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Largest of Joe-Pye weeds. Deer resistant.



## Sweet joe pye

*Eutrochium purpureum*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 7 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Pale pink
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality late nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Vanilla-scented flowers great for cut flowers. Deer resistant.



## Swamp sunflower

*Helianthus angustifolius*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Wet, Medium-Wet, Medium
- Height:** 8 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality late nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly. Food source for many birds. Grows slowly into a clump.

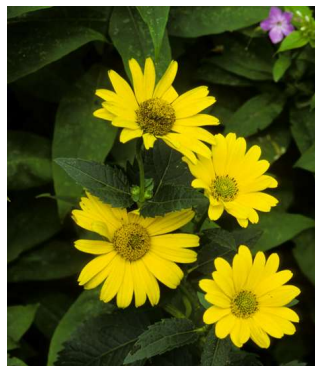




## Smooth oxeye

### *Heliopsis helianthoides*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 4-6 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - September
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Nectar and pollen provided for a variety of pollinators. Songbirds enjoy the seed. Short-lived perennial so allow to self-seed. Deer and rabbit resistant.



## Rough blazing star

### *Liatris aspera*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Blooms from top of spike down.



## Meadow blazing star

### *Liatris ligulistylis*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators. Not native to Ohio but nearby states. Monarch favorite!



## Northern blazing star

*Liatris scariosa*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs and other pollinators.



## Dense blazing star

*Liatris spicata*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Goldfinches love to eat the seed. Tendency to flop over while in flower if it is spoiled with rich soil or too much moisture.



## Cardinal flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Wet, Medium-Wet
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Red
- Wildlife Value:** Hummingbird and swallowtail butterfly favorite!! Short-lived perennial so allow to self-seed. Deer and rabbit resistant.





## Wild bergamot

### *Monarda fistulosa*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Favorite of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.  
Aromatic foliage.  
Deer resistant.



## Riddell's goldenrod

### *Oligoneuron riddelli*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Wet, Medium-Wet, Medium
- Height:** 3-4 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Goldfinches love to eat the seed.  
Mid-vein on leaves is very pronounced causing sides to fold upwards.



## Stiff goldenrod

### *Oligoneuron rigidum*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 2-4 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Larger, flatter flower clusters than most goldenrods. Leaves turn nice shades of red in the fall. Readily self-seeds.



## Beardtongue

### *Penstemon digitalis*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - July
- Bloom Color:** White to pink
- Wildlife Value:** Flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, Miner bees, Mason bees. Hummingbird favorite!



## Clustered mountain mint

### *Pycnanthemum muticum*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for butterflies, bees, and many other pollinators. Spreads by rhizomes but not as aggressively as other mint family relatives. Minty smell which makes it deer and rabbit resistant.



## Orange coneflower

### *Rudbeckia fulgida*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Orange yellow, abundant
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Host plant to Silvery Checkerspot. American goldfinch and others eat the seeds. Easy to grow. Deer resistant.



## Bloodroot

### *Sanguinaria canadensis*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 6 inches
- Bloom Time:** April - May
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Critical early nectar and pollen. Ants are attracted to a sweet fleshy appendage on the seed.  
Great for home gardens.  
Dormant by mid summer.  
Deer resistant.



## Royal catchfly

### *Silene regia*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - August
- Bloom Color:** Red
- Wildlife Value:** Hummingbird and swallowtail butterfly favorite!!  
Great for home gardens!



## Zigzag goldenrod

### *Solidago flexicaulis*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators.  
Host plant for many moth caterpillars.  
Woodland songbirds love to eat the seed.



## Sweet goldenrod

*Solidago odora*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - September
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Doesn't cause sneezing or hay fever– its pollen is distributed by insects, rather than the wind. Nice-smelling leaves and dried flowers have been used to make tea.



## Wrinkle-leaf goldenrod

*Solidago rugosa*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Wet, Medium-Wet
- Height:** 2-3 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Goldfinches love to eat the seed. Popular cultivar is named 'Fireworks.'



## Showy goldenrod

*Solidago speciosa*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 4-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** September - October
- Bloom Color:** Yellow
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Blooms a little later than most goldenrods. One of the showiest of goldenrods with a feathery plume atop an attractive red stem.





## Heart-leaved aster

### *Symphyotrichum cordifolium*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** September - October
- Bloom Color:** Blue
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.  
Very late bloomer.



## Drummond's aster

### *Symphyotrichum drummondii*

- Light:** Full sun to shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** September - October
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.



## Smooth blue aster

### *Symphyotrichum laeve*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 4 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Blue
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.  
Very late bloomer.  
Great for home gardens.



## Aromatic aster

### *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 1-2 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - November
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.  
One of the last fall bloomers.



## Silky aster

### *Symphyotrichum sericeum*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Dry, Dry
- Height:** 1-2 feet
- Bloom Time:** September - October
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.  
Very late bloomer.



## Short's aster

### *Symphyotrichum shortii*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 3 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - October
- Bloom Color:** Blue
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality nectar for migrating monarchs.  
Host plant for the Silvery checkerspot and Pearl crescent butterflies and many species of moths including owlets.





## Large-flowered trillium

*Trillium grandiflorum*

- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium
- Height:** 12 inches
- Bloom Time:** April - June
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Critical early nectar and pollen. Ants are attracted to a sweet fleshy appendage on the seed.  
 State wildflower of Ohio.  
 Great for home gardens.  
 Dormant by mid summer.  
 Deer candy.



## Frostweed

*Verbesina virginica*

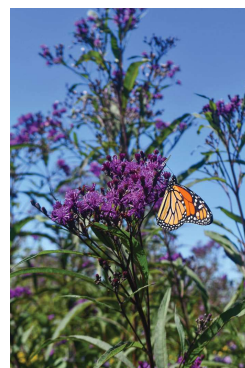
- Light:** Full to partial shade
- Soil:** Dry, Medium-Dry, Wet, Medium-Wet
- Height:** 3-5 feet
- Bloom Time:** August - September
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Valuable high-quality late nectar for monarchs and many other pollinators. Frostweed gets its common name from its ice ribbons, also called ice flowers or ice fingers. During the early morning of a hard freeze, you may be able to see Frostweed's stems break open and reveal beautiful ice formations.



## Common ironweed

*Vernonia fasciculata*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium
- Height:** 6 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - September
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Host plant for the American Painted Lady butterfly. Listed by the Xerces Society as having special value to native bees.  
 Deer resistant.



## Missouri ironweed

*Vernonia missurica*

- Light:** Full sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 5 feet
- Bloom Time:** July - October
- Bloom Color:** Purple
- Wildlife Value:** Late-season nectar source.  
Deer resistant.



## Culver's root

*Veronicastrum virginicum*

- Light:** Full to partial sun
- Soil:** Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry
- Height:** 5 feet
- Bloom Time:** June - August
- Bloom Color:** White
- Wildlife Value:** Nectar and pollen provided for a variety of pollinators.  
Candelabra-like spikes of white flowers that open from the bottom up.  
Deer resistant.

