



## Our Stance on Native Milkweed

As a native nursery that is working to support our natural ecosystems, we recommend planting only native milkweed in Florida Landscapes. We support the removal of all non-native milkweed from gardens, in line with policies endorsed by the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF), and Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN).

FAQ:

Q: Should I protect caterpillars then release the adult monarchs?

A: Due to the prevalence of OE in the state, we do not recommend captive rearing caterpillars. In nature, most caterpillars don't survive to adulthood. Butterflies lay lots of eggs to account for this.

Q: What if my butterflies and caterpillars look healthy?

A: Even a healthy-looking butterfly can carry and spread OE spores. Testing and proper sanitation can help prevent spreading OE in butterfly enclosures, but most people aren't doing that. It is generally better to provide habitat and allow them to naturally reproduce.

Q: What's wrong with tropical milkweed?

A: Tropical milkweed is evergreen, lush, and colonizes, so the parasite load increases over time. Most native milkweed dies back in winter, so the fresh growth in spring is not infected. Tropical milkweed has also been designated as Category II invasive.

Q: How can I help Florida monarchs?

A: Plant a wide variety of nectar plants to support adult butterflies. Remove all non-native milkweed from your yard. You can also support efforts to preserve wild habitats, including the West Klosterman Preserve.

Some additional resources about monarch butterflies and milkweed

[2024 Statement from the Florida Native Plant Society's Science Committee](#)

Xerces Society "[Tropical Milkweed—a No-Grow](#)"

[Shifts in Migratory Behavior: Implications for Parasite Infection, Population Dynamics, and Morphology in Eastern North American Monarch Butterflies \(\*Danaus plexippus\*\)](#)

[Extent and impacts of winter breeding in the North American monarch butterfly](#)

Video: [UF Center for Land Use Efficiency Milkweed, Monarchs and OE in Florida - It's complicated](#)

Florida Wildflower Foundation "[Monarchs and Milkweed](#)"

Florida Invasive Species Council [FISC List of Invasive Plant Species \(Updated 06/2025\)](#)