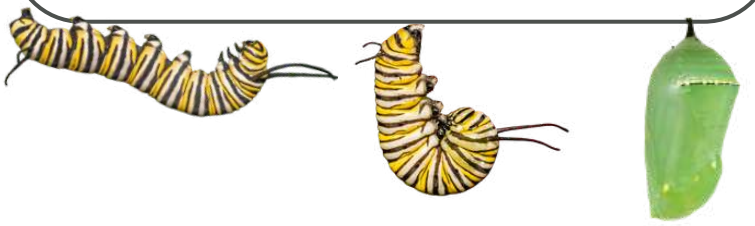
Wilcox Nursery & LANDSCAPE

Our Stance on Milkweed



WE SUPPORT THE USE OF NATIVE MILKWEED

As a native nursery 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).



What's wrong with tropical milkweed?

- It is evergreen, lush, and colonizing, 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 is Category II invasive.
- It encourages higher-than-normal egg production and lengthens breeding times, changing population dynamics.

Should I protect caterpillars and then release the adult monarchs?

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

What if my butterflies and caterpillars look healthy?

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



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Support adult monarchs with a variety of nectar plants
- Plant only native milkweed
- Remove non-native milkweed
- Support efforts to preserve wild habitat

PLANT NATIVE

Further Reading

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 MORHOLOGY IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICAN MONARCH BUTTERFLIES



EXTENT AND IMPACTS OF WINTER BREEDING IN THE NORTH AMERICAN MONARCH BUTTERFLY



FLORIDA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL LIST OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES



VIDEO: UF CENTER FOR LAND USE EFFICIENCY MILKWEED, MONARCHS AND OE IN FLORIDA - IT'S COMPLICATED