

Activity

The National Wildlife Federation says that Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this popular butterfly species. Milkweed is very important to the survival of monarchs. Without it, they cannot complete their life cycle and their populations decline. The loss of milkweed is actually one of the main reasons that monarch numbers have declined.

In addition to monarchs, native milkweeds support many different pollinators, including bumble bees. The Wisconsin Horticulture program defines a pollinator as any animal that visits flowering plants and moves pollen from flower to flower, which helps plants reproduce, making fruits and seeds.

Ask students to pick one pollinator and one flower and draw a picture of it.
Be prepared to share your pictures.

1. Why did you pick the pollinator and the flower that you picked?
2. What do you think would happen if the flower was not around for the pollinator?
3. Come up with an idea for how you could make a difference for pollinators. Can you think of how you could use milkweed?

Share pictures for others to see.

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Strawberry Moon - June