

Xerces Monarch and Pollinator Kits: California

Thanks for your interest in creating habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators in California. This handout is intended to accompany the Project Proposal form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx7-V1WdSatuqq_FUBTG7wjSwJLmu1ZY4GQRsoP_X2SG24RA/viewform?usp=share_link) in order to provide you with more information about the kits. Please read it over carefully before completing your form. If you have questions, please email us at: centralvalleypollinators@xerces.org. You can also find more information about our Habitat Kit Program on our website: (<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-kits>).

Many insect pollinators are declining in California, including bees and butterflies. The Western monarch population has declined more than 95% since the 1980s, likely due to multiple factors including habitat loss and degradation, pesticides, and climate change. One important step we can take to protect these important animals is to increase the amount of habitat available to these species. To this end, The Xerces Society is offering habitat kits that contain climate-smart native plants to project partners who are willing to provide the time, labor and land to develop habitats that support monarchs and other pollinators in California.

Who can apply?

Kits are intended to be used to create or enhance monarch and pollinator habitat on working lands, public lands, tribal lands and private/non-working lands recovering from wildfires, with landowner or land manager collaboration. This includes farms, ranches, tribal land, post-wildfire recovery areas, urban farms or gardens, city parks, school gardens or other public areas. *The kits are not intended to be used in home gardens.* We have kits available for the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills, Central Coast and Coastal Foothills, and Southern California (see map on last page).

We encourage private landowners of working lands to partner with their local Resource Conservation District (RCD) or other technical liaison on their projects.

Past applicants or recipients of this program are welcome to re-apply.

Please note that you are responsible for picking up your kit(s) when ready in Oct/Nov. Kit pick up locations are as follows:

- Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Foothills kits: USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center, Lockeford CA
- Central Coast and Coastal Foothills kits: Our City Forest, San Jose, CA
- Southern California kits: Temecula Olive Oil company, Temecula, CA

How to fill out the Project Proposal form:

Completing the form does not guarantee that your project will be selected. ***The form is your opportunity to demonstrate that your project is well designed and carefully thought out.*** Land

managers can apply directly, or RCDs or other technical liaisons can apply on behalf of land managers. Please note that the name and email that you enter when you fill out the form is the default main point of contact for this project. *You are responsible for notifying us if the project plans or point of contact change at any time.*

Single kits are not designed to be divided into multiple projects, and we are not able to provide partial kits or to customize kits for specific projects. Participants must be able to use the entire kit/ minimum order in one project but it can be divided up within the area. For example, several plantings within one county park, or several areas on a farm or ranch. *If applying for kits for multiple projects, please fill out a separate application for each project.*

If you are interested in receiving a kit(s), please complete the interest form by EOD April 3rd, 2023. Partners will be notified by May 5th, 2023. Kits will be available for pick-up between mid-Oct and mid-Nov, depending on the location.

This year, we are offering several different kit types and sizes. Please take a minute to look through the different kit descriptions as well as the associated geographic regions, so you can determine which kit would be most appropriate for your project. All kits are comprised of native plants that have been identified as having high value to monarchs and other pollinators and are grown without the use of systemic pesticides that may be harmful to pollinators. *Please note that kits are not certified organic.*

Wildflower Grassland Kit. This kit contains 600 small herbaceous transplants (mostly 'plugs') including milkweed, flowering forbs, and some grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 5,400 ft² if planted on 3 ft. spacing. Minimum order of 1 kit / project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills and Central Coast and Coastal Foothill regions. *Please note, this kit is not available for Southern California.*

Riparian Wildflower Kit. This kit contains 600 small herbaceous transplants (mostly 'plugs'), including milkweed, flowering forbs and some grasses/sedges. This kit contains plants that do well in riparian areas and can tolerate some seasonal flooding. Each kit will cover 5,400 ft² if planted on 3 ft. spacing. Minimum order of 1 kit / project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada Foothills and Central Coast and Coastal Foothill regions. *Please note, this kit is not available for Southern California.*

Hedgerow Kit. This kit contains 90 woody and herbaceous transplants including flowering shrubs and forbs, milkweed and native bunch grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 540 linear ft/ 5,400 ft² if planted on 6 ft spacing. Container sizes range from tree band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit / project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for all regions.

Riparian Hedgerow Kit. This kit contains 90 woody and herbaceous transplants including flowering shrubs and forbs, milkweed and native bunch grasses / sedges. Each kit will cover approximately 540 linear ft/ 5,400 ft² if planted on 6 ft spacing. This kit contains plants that do well in riparian areas and can tolerate some seasonal flooding. Container sizes range from tree

band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit / project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for all regions.

Garden Kit. This kit contains 36 herbaceous transplants including milkweed, flowering forbs, and some grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 576 ft² when planted on 4 ft spacing. Container sizes range from tree band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit/ project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for all regions.

Milkweed-Free Garden Kit. This kit is available for projects that are within ~1 mile of the coast south of Santa Barbara or within ~5 miles of the coast north of Santa Barbara, where planting milkweed is not recommended. This kit contains 36 herbaceous transplants including flowering forbs and some grasses. Each kit will cover approximately 576 ft² when planted on 4 ft spacing. Container sizes range from tree band to 1 gal. Minimum order of 1 kit/ project. Additional kits can be requested for larger projects. Available for the Central Coast and Southern California coastal regions.

If you need assistance filling out the application form, have questions about your project's suitability or for requests for technical guidance on your project, please email us at:

centralvalleypollinators@xerces.org

Figure 1. Kit Regions and pick-up locations for the California Habitat Kits

