

STEM Monarch Pollinator Project

St Mary School

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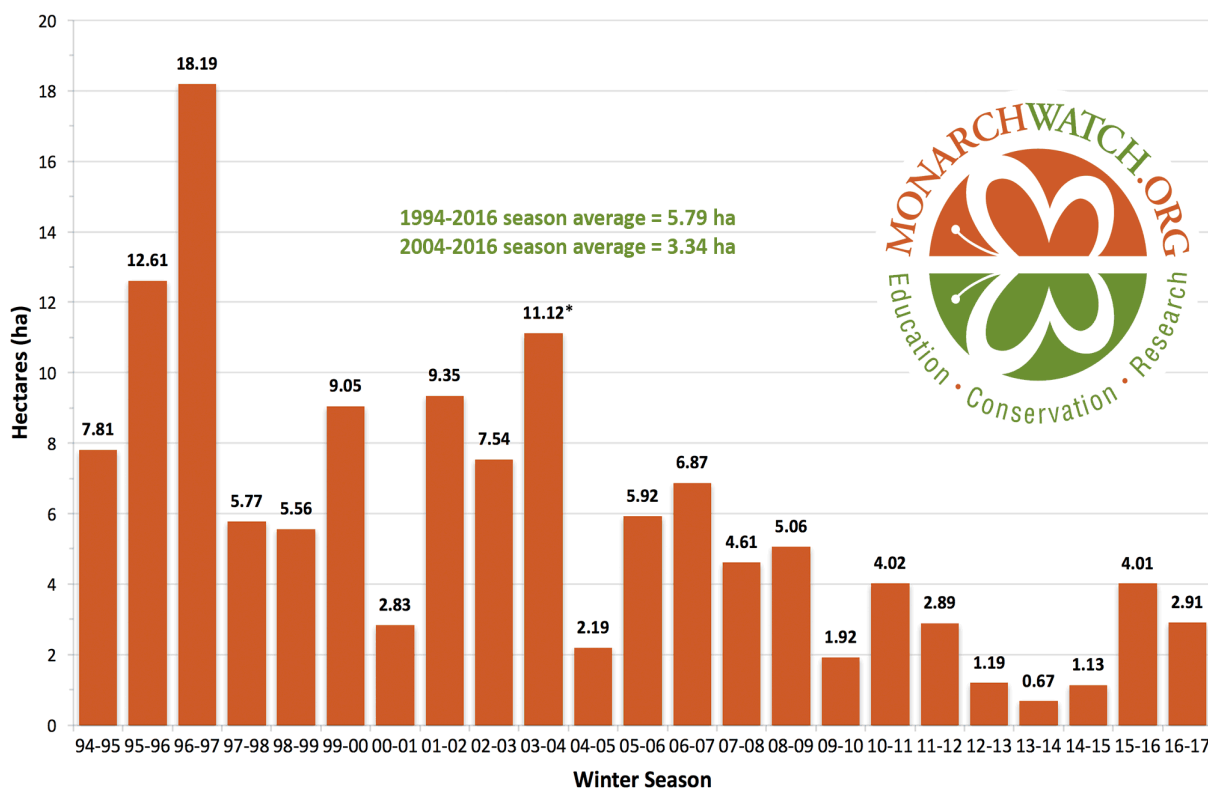
Based on the La Crosse Diocese Science Curriculum:

TEACHING RESOURCE CONSERVATION USING REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS

Project goal: To educate our students, parents, and community about the plight of the monarchs and other pollinators. Together we can solve this environmental issue by getting informed and by taking action.

Within the past two decades monarch populations have declined by 80%,
1.3 Billion stems of milkweed are needed to recover the monarch population.

Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico



Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2003-2016 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT

STEM Connections

- All School Classrooms engineered monarch habitats to raise 3-10 monarch larvae
- Daily journal entries, pictures, and discussion
- Monarch Action Plan Posters with original artwork
- Monarch life cycle stories written in first person
- Monarch Video using Photoshop
- Plant pollination including monarch anatomy and physiology
- Monarch tagging and releasing
- Science Fair research project including Citizen Science work
- Follow monarch migration using JourneyNorth
- Research, growing, planting and transplanting milkweed plants
- Researching habitats for milkweed plots
- Each class planting a pollinator garden including milkweed and other pollinator flowering plants
- Population Density mapping
- Plant identification – weed species
- Types of prayer, writing poetry and prayers
- Making a monarch life cycle play

FREE MILKWEED:

<http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds-for-restoration-projects/>

If your school or non-profit educational organization is interested in this conservation measure, we can help you create a habitat for monarchs and pollinators. Please apply using this form: biosurvey.ku.edu/2017-application-free-milkweed-nonprofits-and-schools

Buying Milkweed Plants

Milkweed plants can be bought from many different nurseries. If you have your own seeds then make sure you stratify them so they will grow for you. We found 2-3 months in the freezer works best.

Buying Monarch Caterpillars

We have been happy with the following two companies:

MonarchWatch shop.monarchwatch.org University of Kansas

Rose Franklin's Perennials rosefranklin@aol.com

Spring Mills, PA 16875

Buying Tags for Monarchs

shop.monarchwatch.org

Resources

monarchwatch.org

journeynorth.org

xerces.org