



A Monarch Research Pollinator Patch Program

In partnership with Linn County Master Gardeners, City of Cedar Rapids, City of Marion, and Linn County

Breathe life back into your yard and become a hero for pollinators! The Native Oasis program empowers homeowners in Linn County to transform their yard into stunning landscapes with high-value native plants. This comprehensive program goes beyond just planting - it provides the support and resources needed to create a thriving, pollinator-friendly haven right in your own backyard.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE - FIRST 200 REGISTRANTS!

We're seeking 200 Linn County residents to transform a 130-square foot section (approximately 10' x 13') of their lawn into a beautiful pollinator oasis. Participants will receive mentoring from Linn County Master Gardeners, educational resources, native plants, and other supplies (valued at \$320) including:

- ❑ **All native plants** - nectar and host plants.
- ❑ **Rabbit and critter protection** - 50' x 2' of perimeter fence, staples, stakes, and zip ties.
- ❑ **Grass removal** - rolled cardboard, staples, and 7 bags of mulch.

YOUR NATIVE OASIS POLLINATOR PATCH

will contain two categories of plants:

- ❑ **Nectar plants** - flowers that provide essential food for adult butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.
- ❑ **Host plants** - are crucial for reproduction by providing food for their caterpillars. For instance, monarch butterflies lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed, as their caterpillars can only eat milkweed leaves. Similarly, black swallowtails lay their eggs only on parsley plants; their caterpillars only eat parsley.

Why is this important? Both nectar and host plants are needed to create an oasis. Nectar and host plants together support the entire lifecycle of pollinators, which means they stay on your property and contribute to adult pollinator populations.

The process at a glance: In the Fall, lay down your cardboard and cover with 2" of mulch in the designated garden space in your yard. The cardboard will decompose and the dead grass will fertilize the soil. In Spring, plant your plugs through the mulch and the decomposed cardboard.

Program Cost: What do you pay?

\$80

paid by the participant (you) for each plot; 1-2 plots per participant

Remaining program costs are paid by Monarch Research and Partners:

\$80 paid by Monarch Research

\$160 paid by our partners at the city of Cedar Rapids, Marion, or Linn County

This \$320 value is a priceless commitment to habitat restoration in our community!



Ready to get started? Scan the QR code to complete the sign-up form, or visit monarchresearch.org/programs/native-oasis and click the 'Register Here' button!

The program officially kicks off in Fall 2026 with lawn preparation in September, and planting in the spring of 2027.

