

# MONARCH FRIENDLY MOWING



FARMERS FOR  
MONARCHS

## A manicured area is an empty table for a monarch

Among the most simple and effective measures farmers and landowners can take to conserve monarch butterfly populations is to follow a few simple best practices for mowing. Mowing is important to both establishing habitat and conducting management activities to keep the site healthy. Once habitat is well-established, mowing or prescribe burning every 3-5 years promotes healthy plant diversity, although mowing or burning too frequently can be detrimental to both the plants and wildlife. When mowing is necessary, avoid peak monarch activity to minimize direct impacts to the monarch larvae growing on milkweed plants. Visually inspect for any monarch activity, like eggs, caterpillars, or frass (caterpillar droppings) and take appropriate measures to protect ones you observe. Make sure to follow best practices to ensure monarch friendly mowing of your land.



Natural settings can provide forage for pollinators

## Best Practices

- Understand the breeding and migration cycles of monarchs to give a timeframe of when mow.
- Do not mow the entire habitat, but rather stick to targeted areas.
- Use a minimum cutting height of 8-12 inches to minimize impact on native plants.
- Mow at reduced speeds and use a flushing bar to allow wildlife to escape.
- Analyze whether mowing these areas is a necessary expense.