

BRRAlliance Inc.

Building Bridges to a Brilliant Future

Garden Patch

Create Habitat for Monarchs

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Source: USDA and Fish and Wildlife Service FWS

Did you know that by growing Milkweed, an herbaceous American plant with milky sap, you can save Monarch butterflies?

Milkweed is a basic food of the monarch butterfly and both the milkweed plants and monarchs have decreased tremendously. Monarchs can't survive without milkweed since caterpillars only eat milkweed plants, and monarch butterflies need milkweed to lay their eggs.

With shifting land management practices, we've lost much milkweed from our landscape.

Agriculture and development remove much of the native milkweed that once spanned the country. That is why it's important for us to get the milkweed back in our neighborhoods.

It's not every day that saving a small patch of your garden can have a meaningful affect on



our beloved monarchs. Join us in planting a milkweed in your garden. Check out The US Fish and Wildlife Service website "Save the monarch" www.fws.gov/savethemonarch for more info.

Other Gardening News

- **Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens – Poinsetta Show – Nov 27- Jan 3**
- **GrassrootsGardens.org** for upcoming gardening workshops
- **UrbanRoots.org** for workshops and awesome plants
- **Watch for our Spring Gardening Series – details next newsletter.**

Make your own seed packets

Source: Fine Gardening Magazine



http://images.taunton.com/finegardening/media/seedpacket_sunflower.pdf

Homemade seed packets are an easy way to save seeds from one year to the next. Try making homemade seed packets using this template from our friends at Fine Gardening.

Make sure your seeds have ample time to dry and remove any extra plant material to prevent mold from forming. There's space on the packet to note details, such as seed type, date, and location of seed harvest.

1. Scan, copy, or trace the pattern. You can use different types of paper as long as they're thin enough to fold. 2. Cut along the solid black line. 3. Fold along the dotted lines. 4. Fold over the large flap (A) first. Glue flap B down with rubber cement, then flap C. 5. After the rubber cement has dried, you can decorate your packet. Keep in a cool dry place until the spring.

Gardening Garlic....

Source: Cornell University

Allium sativum, commonly known as **garlic**, is a species in the onion genus, *Allium*.

Its close relatives include the onion, shallot, leek and chives. Garlic has been used by humans for over 7,000 years. It's been used for both cooking and medicinal purposes. A late introduction to North America it's certainly found in most American households and gardens.

Garlic is productive and is easy to grow. Just a pound of cloves can produce 7 to 10 pounds of garlic. Garlic needs rich, well-drained soil, full sun and excellent weed control.

Fall plantings take about 8 months to mature. Break bulbs apart at planting time, keeping papery husks on the individual cloves; plant with tips up, 2 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches apart in rows 15 to 24 inches apart. Plant

elephant garlic varieties about 3 inches deep and 8 to 12 inches apart, mulch heavily after planting to prevent soil heaving - particularly with less-hardy elephant garlic varieties. Roots will begin to grow even though top growth may not be evident in late fall and winter. Remove mulch in spring, leaving only what is needed to suppress weeds.

Bulblets at top of scape can be used in cooking as can the stalks (scapes) of young tender plants. Garlic is a great staple for any garden.

