

Mexican Milkweed - Answer Key

What is another name for the Mexican Milkweed?

Blood flower

What kind of butterfly lives in a symbiotic relationship with the Mexican Milkweed?

Monarch butterfly

Where do butterflies lay their eggs on the milkweed?

On the leaves

How did milkweeds get their name?

The sap of the plant is very white and milky

How are caterpillars protected from predators?

Sap is very bitter and toxic, so the caterpillars will taste bad to predators

Where do monarchs migrate to and from? When do they do this?

Mexico to North America and back; they go to Mexico for the winter and then back to North America in the summer

What medicinal purpose does milkweed have? What specific skin condition does it help with?

Can use as an astringent for skin parasites; works well against warts

Article: [This milkweed species may be bad news for monarch butterflies](#)

The video stated that the monarchs need Mexican milkweed along the entire migration route. How does this article differ from this statement? What suggestions does it give instead?

This article describes that many Texans are planting the Mexican Milkweed (tropical) species instead of the milkweed that is native to Texas (rest of North America), and the butterflies' instinctual migration is delayed because they think they have arrived. Instead of making it to Mexico, many of the monarchs end up staying much too late, into November, and may end up freezing during the first frosts of the season. This article recommends that growers and gardeners begin to plant more native milkweed plants that have a shorter life cycle, so that the monarchs don't continue to have their migration delayed or disrupted.