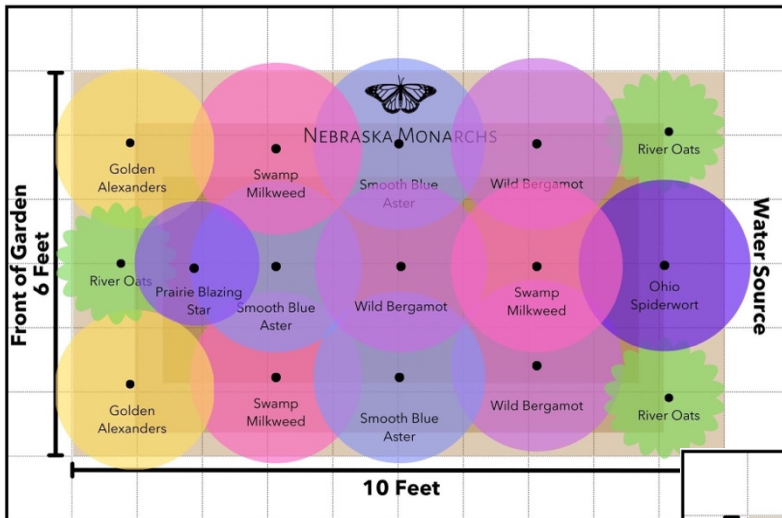


Rain Garden (5 feet max) (5)

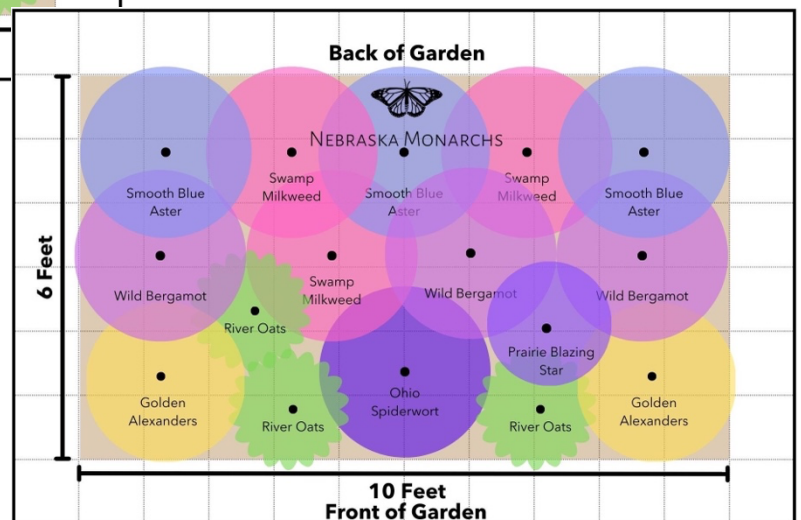


Design 1: Rain Garden

Because a rain garden design depends on the slope, rate of drainage, and other factors unique to your space, be sure to research what approach best fits your needs and adapt the design accordingly.

Design 2: Not as a Rain Garden

This garden would be good for a lower spot that tends to stay wetter than other areas in your yard.



Spring Bloomers

Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) - 1 (Height: 3', Spread: 3', Color: Purple/Blue)
 Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) - 2 (Height: 3', Spread: 3', Color: Yellow)

Summer Bloomers

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - 3 (Height: 5', Spread: 3', Color: Pink)
 Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) - 3 (Height: 5', Spread: 3', Color: Pink)
 Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*) - 1 (Height: 4', Spread: 2', Color: Purple)

Fall Bloomers

Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphotrichum leave*) - 3 (Height: 5', Spread: 3', Color: Blue)

Grass/Sedge

River Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) - 3 (Height: 3', Spread: 2')

For complete planting instructions, refer to the brochure "Creating a Native Pollinator Habitat" received at the Native Plant Giveaway or found online at NeMonarchs.com/designs

Site Preparation

When selecting a location for your plants, consider their sunlight and water needs. Avoid planting in areas treated with pesticides. Before you begin planting, amend the soil with 1-2 inches of a mix of equal parts of compost and topsoil. Avoid tilling as it can bring weed seeds to the surface. You can mulch to help control weeds. A layer of 1 inch or less is best. Too much mulch can harm plants. Finally, measure the space and mark plant locations before digging.

Planting: Dig a hole for each plant slightly bigger than the width of the pot and ¼ inch deeper. Remove plants from pots by gently squeezing the bottom while tilting the pot slightly downward. Avoid pulling plants from the top. Gently massage the roots and place in the hole. Backfill loose soil from the hole by feathering it around the base of the plant and using it to cover the entire root system. Firm the loose soil by lightly pressing down around the plant to ensure good root contact with the soil underneath.

First Year Water Schedule

Observe plants and weather conditions to determine water needs. Water each plant with 1 quart (4 cups) in the early morning or at sunset. Recommended watering schedule:

- Week 1-2:** Water every other day
- Week 3-4:** Water twice per week
- Week 5-10:** Water once a week

Clean-up

Year-round: Pull unwanted grasses/weeds.

Fall: Leave as much of your garden as possible intact for winter pollinator hibernating habitats. Collect seeds from plants to share!

Spring: Do spring clean-up when temperatures are consistently above 50°F for ten days and the threat of frost has passed.

Get to Know Your Plants

Golden Alexanders: Host plant for Black Swallowtails

Swamp Milkweed: Host plant for Monarchs

Smooth Blue Aster: Host plant for Dainty Sulphurs and Pearl Crescents

- Perennials come back every year and require minimum maintenance once established (can take up to a year).
- Many native plants do not flower the first year as they are establishing a strong root system, so be patient!
- If critters are eating the plants, you can buy chicken wire and create small enclosures surrounding plants until they are established.
- If you notice a taller plant needs extra support, you can secure the plant to a stake using plant ties or large wire twist ties.



This garden (estimated value of \$70) was provided to you for free through grant writing and fundraising efforts of Nebraska Monarchs volunteers. If you can help support our fundraising efforts with a donation, we would really appreciate it!

Funding partners:

