



Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

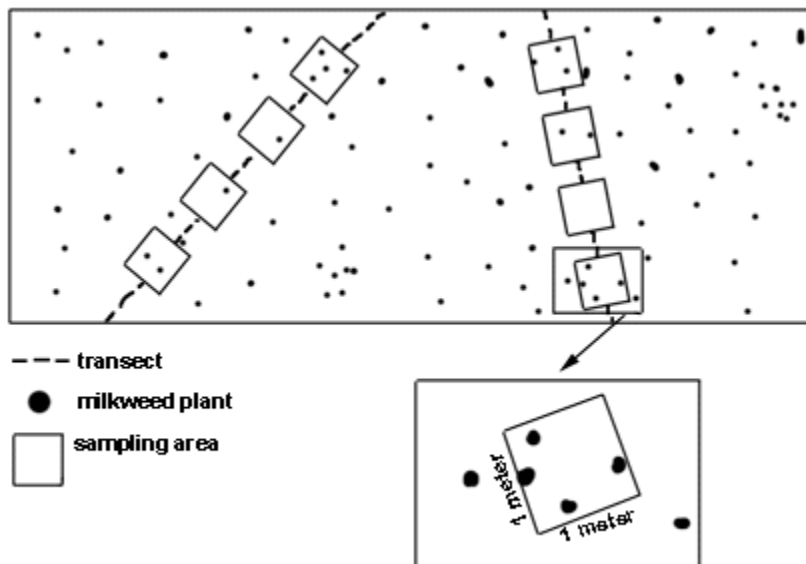
MEASURING MILKWEED DENSITY

All participants must complete the “Milkweed Density Datasheet” once a year.

Since the milkweed may not all be above ground at the beginning of the season, you should wait to do the density measurements until the middle of the season. You only need to complete this activity once.

If you can easily count all of the milkweed plants at your site, record the actual number of milkweeds at the site and the size of your site.

If your site has too many milkweed plants to count, you will need to randomly sample points to obtain plant density data, counting the number of milkweed plants in several 1 meter squares. To do this, randomly choose a direction and walk one or more transects, or paths, through the site. Stop every 5-10 paces, and use a meter stick to delineate a square that is 1 meter on each side. Count all of the milkweed plants within that 1 m² square. The number of paces will vary with the size of your site, but must be consistent for all of your samples. Record the data on the Milkweed Density Data Sheet. Continue with this method until you have sampled up to 100 squares (the more squares you sample the more accurate your density estimate will be, but more than 100 is not necessary). The goal is to sample randomly and obtain data that are representative of the whole site. It is very important not to let the presence or absence of milkweed influence your choice of samples.



MILKWEED DENSITY DATASHEET

Year: _____ Observers: _____ Site Name: _____ City, State: _____

You only need to do this activity once during the season (at middle of season)

If can count all of the milkweed plants at your site, record the number of milkweed plants and area of your site (you can record the area in square meters, square feet, or acres).

Number of milkweed plants: _____ **Area of site:** _____

If your site has too many milkweed plants to count, use the sampling procedure described above and complete the table below.

Point #	# of milkweed plants in 1x1 meter square	Point #	# of milkweed plants in 1x1 meter square	Point #	# of milkweed plants in 1x1 meter square	Point #	# of milkweed plants in 1x1 meter square
1		26		51		76	
2		27		52		77	
3		28		53		78	
4		29		54		79	
5		30		55		80	
6		31		56		81	
7		32		57		82	
8		33		58		83	
9		34		59		84	
10		35		60		85	
11		36		61		86	
12		37		62		87	
13		38		63		88	
14		39		64		89	
15		40		65		90	
16		41		66		91	
17		42		67		92	
18		43		68		93	
19		44		69		94	
20		45		70		95	
21		46		71		96	
22		47		72		97	
23		48		73		98	
24		49		74		99	
25		50		75		100	