



The Monarch Journey

Creating Communities of Biodiversity

Monarch Awards Applicant Newsletter

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Journey Notes

A wildlife-friendly garden can be lively and abundant while still showing care for the people and spaces around it. Thoughtful plant placement, clear sightlines for safety and attention to how plants grow help keep the garden safe and contained. Purposeful groupings and habitat areas can also help plants work together, creating food, shelter and nesting spaces for the many creatures that visit or make their homes in our gardens.

In the Garden

Stand back and view your garden from the sidewalk, driveway or neighbouring property. Are sightlines clear for pedestrians and cars? Are plants leaning or spreading beyond their space? Look within the garden, too. Can you spot areas that provide shelter, soft landings, exposed soil for ground-nesting bees or an area where plants have been grouped with similar needs?

Resource to Explore

Choosing the right plant for the right place is easier when you can narrow down the possibilities. The [Network of Nature](#) plant database lets you search for native plants by growing conditions, including light and soil moisture, as well as by plant type—trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and perennials. It's a useful place to begin when you're filling a gap, planning a new garden area or looking for a plant that will be well suited to a particular spot.



Eco-Gardening Tips

Take a Look

Notice which plants have grown taller or spread farther than expected, especially near sidewalks, entrances and property lines.

Ask Yourself

Do plants have enough room to grow, and are they grouped with others that share similar needs?

Try This

Prune, stake or thin plants that block a path or sightline. If this becomes an ongoing job, the plant may be better suited to another location.

One Small Action

Choose one area and strengthen its purpose—perhaps by adding a soft landing, grouping plants with similar needs or leaving a small patch of bare soil for ground-nesting bees.



View full image at: [Heather Holm: Soft Landings Books](#)

HELPFUL TIPS



Suggestions for front yard gardens
[See full image - Page 14](#)

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