



By the Center for Biological Diversity

# THE MONARCH EMERGENCY: TIME'S RUNNING OUT

Monarch butterflies – once one of the most common and beloved species in the United States – are in very serious trouble.

Overall, monarch populations in the United States have plummeted more than 80% in the past two decades.

**Without emergency help, it's almost certain that the western population of monarchs will collapse within 50 years**, including those that famously winter in California each year. Indeed, their annual migration has *already* collapsed.

**For the eastern population of monarchs, there's up to an 80% chance they'll collapse within 50 years.**

Once the populations collapse, they're on a sure path toward extinction. If we're going to save North American monarchs, this is our moment to act. Here's what's needed:

- In Congress, pass The MONARCH Act of 2021 to provide \$125 million in emergency funds over five years to save the western monarch population.
- Immediately protect monarchs under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Plant 1.5 billion milkweed plants to restore 100 million acres of monarch habitat.
- Launch a long-term initiative to scale back harmful pesticides in monarch habitat and create “safe zones” for yearly migrations.

There were once billions of monarchs in the United States and countless generations celebrated their spectacular beauty and epic, life-affirming migrations.

**The future of monarchs is now up to us.** We can choose to let the North American populations go extinct or choose to save them, ensuring that those who come after us can experience their magic and grace.

