

## Roadside Cutting Delay Update, Summer 2015

This is an informational update of the monitoring that is being performed on selected roadsides in Port Colborne that have had the second cut delayed in order to facilitate Monarch Butterfly proliferation. Monitoring is being done every two weeks and started after the first cut along the boulevards of these roads, which was completed the week of June 1st. Observation of seed development and possible dispersal, identification of plant species and vegetation height, and counting of Monarch Larvae is being recorded.



(Two Monarch caterpillars on Weaver Road)

**Roadside Monarch Larvae counts:** What an amazing find so far on our roadsides.... Weaver road has had 67 Monarch eggs and Caterpillars, Cedar Bay has had 38 eggs and caterpillars and Pinecrest Road 121 Monarchs!! These numbers confirm that the Monarchs are using our roadsides to reproduce, and will continue to do so until the end of September.

### What's growing along our ditches?



Blue Vervain  
Loved by bees



Common Milkweed  
Monarch's food



Queen Anne's Lace  
Black  
Swallowtail food

These plants are just a few of the species that are growing along our ditches. The amount of vegetation that is providing a food source for all pollinators is diverse and abundant. There will be times when the roads will not be so pretty, especially when the plants have finished their growing period. Take an opportunity now to have a walk and observe for yourselves the beauty alongside our roads. A great spot to go for a walk is along the rail on Weaver road to observe the Monarch Caterpillars and the Goldfinches.

**How can we help?** We as homeowners can help prevent the spread of invasive weeds. Sow Thistle is a very common plant that grows along our roadsides and unfortunately in our gardens and organic fields. Please help control of population of this plant by removing the plant from the soil; cutting only delays seed development.



The good news is that it's easy to pull out.

Summary: The month of June made up for any lack of rainfall we had in spring, however it made it a challenge to study the roadside delay trial areas. Many thanks for your support for this research project our city is initiating to protect our future pollinators and the Monarch Butterfly's habitat.

**Signage** Monarch signs have just been installed to notify the public about our support for the pollinators in our community.



Any questions or comments? Please come by our display at the Port Colborne farmer's market on August 21<sup>st</sup> where we will have a pollinator and Monarch display.