



MONARCH BUTTERFLY GARDENING

LOCATION

Plant your butterfly garden in a sunny location (5-6 hours each day) but sheltered from the winds. Butterflies need the sun to warm them as they cannot fly if it is cooler than 55 degrees. Also, they won't want to feed in an area where they are constantly fighting the wind to stay on the plants.

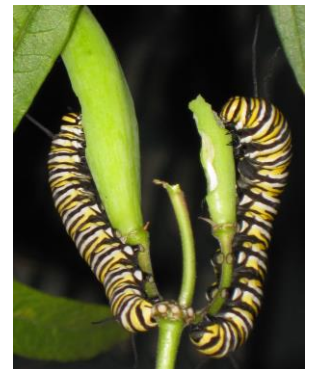
Butterflies need water just like we do. Consider placing a bird bath or fountain with water in your garden.

ABSOLUTELY DO NOT USE PESTICIDES IN YOUR GARDEN!

Food For Monarchs

Butterflies use two different types of plants - those that provide nectar for the adults to eat (nectar plant), and those that provide food for their offspring (host plant).

<http://www.xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/>



**Caterpillars eating
milkweed seed pods**

Milkweed for Monarchs - Host Plant

Anecdote: Caterpillars like making their chrysalis on sturdy plants, fences, eaves. Plant your milkweed near these. You can plant TROPICAL MILKWEED (which has the orange/red or yellow flowers) or NATIVE MILKWEED. It is easy to sprout milkweed seeds and raise your own plants as well. To grow seeds, place on soil with tiny amount of dirt on top. Keep moist.

If you plant Tropical milkweed, COMMIT TO PRUNE your plants to 8 to 10" stems and remove all leaves from Nov. 1st thru January to kill off the O.e. (microscopic parasite) to promote monarch migration to central coast California and prevent O.e. from disabling or killing your caterpillars the next year. This helps insure a healthy monarch population.

See www.tinyurl.com/pruningmilkweed

Nectar Plants for Monarchs - Monarch butterflies drink nectar from a great many plants, including herbs. Try planting: Anise Hyssops, Milkweed, Lantana, Butterfly Bush, Aster, Coneflower, Coreopsis, Dianthus, Heliotrope, Lantana, Marigold, Pincushion (scabiosa), Sage (salvia), Verbena, Yarrow, Zinnia, Blue Cardinal Flower, Bloodflower, Globe Amaranth, Heath Aster, Mist Flower, Mustard Greens, New York Ironweed, Oriental Lilies, Coyote Mint, Star Clusters, Tithonia (Mexican Sun) and more.

More info at <https://tinyurl.com/AllAboutMonarchs>
www.monarchwatch.org and www.monarchjointventure.org

THE CHRYSALIS and METAMORPHOSIS

The Monarch is a larva/caterpillar for two weeks, during which time it eats ravenously and grows 2500 times bigger than when it emerged from an egg laid on the milkweed plant. It will up about 32 milkweed leaves during those two weeks. Expect your milkweed plant to be eaten up. It almost always WILL grow back in 4 to 5 weeks.



The larva then goes on a 24-hour trek to find the place to make its chrysalis. It can be less than a foot away from the milkweed plant or 30 feet away and up a post or a plant and at the very top! They like sturdy plants, wood posts, fences, eaves, etc. They make their chrysalis on the underside of plants and objects. Once they find the location for their chrysalis, they hang upside down in a 'J' for 24 to 48 hours before forming the chrysalis. The chrysalis is on the INSIDE of the caterpillar. It will shed its entire skin including feet, eyes, mouth, antenna to reveal the chrysalis inside.

THE BUTTERFLY ECLOSES (EMERGES) FROM THE CHRYSALIS

The chrysalis will harden in about 20 minutes and metamorphosis will go on for 2 weeks inside the chrysalis. The day the monarch butterfly will eclose (emerge/be born), the chrysalis will thin and look black and orange. You are seeing the butterfly inside! Wait and watch it emerge; it is stunning! When it first emerges from the chrysalis, the wings are curled and wet. Watch in the first 10 minutes as the wings fill with monarch meconium (blood) pumped from the bulbous black body into the veins of the wings. They will still be wet and flimsy. The new butterfly must hang upside down undisturbed for a minimum of 2 hours for the wings to harden. When the butterfly starts to open and close its wings, it will soon be ready to flit off into the sunshine.

LIFE CYCLE REVIEW

- Tiny white egg on the milkweed – 2 to 4 days to hatch
- Black, yellow and white banded caterpillar on the milkweed – 2 weeks
- On a trek and hanging in a "J" just prior to making its chrysalis – 1-2 days
- In the bright green chrysalis for metamorphosis – 2 weeks
- Life as a glorious Monarch Butterfly – 3 to 6 weeks
- Overwintering butterflies born in November will live 3 to 8 months

VIDEOS OF MONARCH LIFE CYCLE by Susie Vanderlip

www.tinyurl.com/Lovemonarchs

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Monarch Butterflies!

With Monarch Conservation Specialist and Citizen Scientist, Susie Vanderlip

www.greatgardenspeakers.com and www.MonarchButterflySpeaker.com

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THE STORY OF CHESTER, The Monarch Caterpillar/Larva

Author/Photographer: Susie Vanderlip

Photo storybook for children, ages 3 thru 10.

Available at www.storyofchester.com

eBook on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and iBookstore

<http://vanderlip.com/monarch-butterfly-speaker-blog/>

