

MLMP Quick Reference Guide

Pollinator Posse



Male Monarch Butterfly
(photo courtesy of Michelle Solensky)



Female Monarch Butterfly
(photo courtesy of Barbara Powers)

mlmp.org

Eggs (vs. Latex Drops)



Latex drop



Monarch egg



Egg Closeup



First Instar

- ****Black head**
- Tentacles barely visible
- No stripes or muted
- body transparent and shiny
- Small holes on leaves



Second Instar

- ****Head is no longer black**
- Front tentacles do not reach top of head
- Stripes apparent– matte body



Third Instar

- Front tentacles just reach top of head
- Stripes more apparent
- Rear tentacles shorter than distance between



Photo: Mike Reese



Fourth Instar

- Front tentacles reach just past top of head
- Rear tentacles equal the distance between



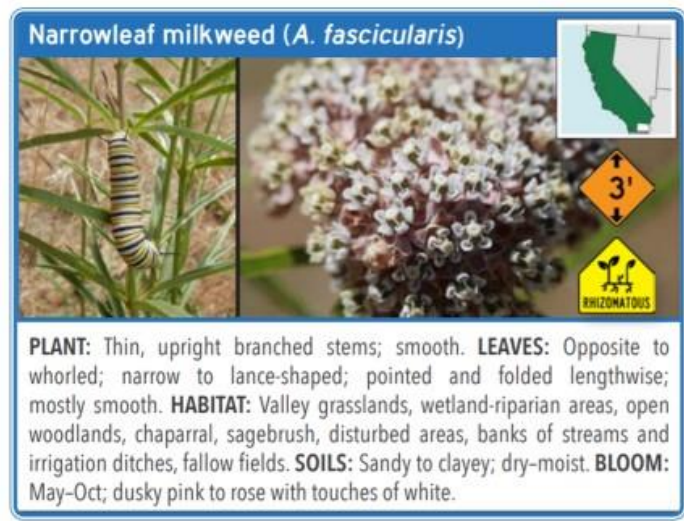
Fifth Instar

- Front tentacles reach well past top of head
- Rear tentacles longer than distance between



Narrowleaf Milkweed (*A. fascicularis*)

- White to pink flowers
- Upright flowers
- Under 3 ft.
- Rhizomes
 - Each stem emerging from the ground is counted as one plant
- If stand is large you can count a certain random number of stems each week
 - Number stays the same
 - Exact stems do not need to be the same



Seed Pods



Balloon Plant (*A. physocarpa*)



- White to pink flowers
- Drooping flowers
- Up to 6 ft tall
- Single Plants
- **Round hairy seed pods
- Not native to California



Tropical Milkweed (*A. curassavica*)



- Upright flowers
- **Gold/Orange/Red flowers
- Up to 3 ft tall
- Single Plants
- Not native to California



Showy Milkweed (*A. speciosa*)

- White to pink flowers
- Upright flowers
- **Fuzzy leaves
- Up to 5 feet
- Rhizomes
- Count each stem as plants

