

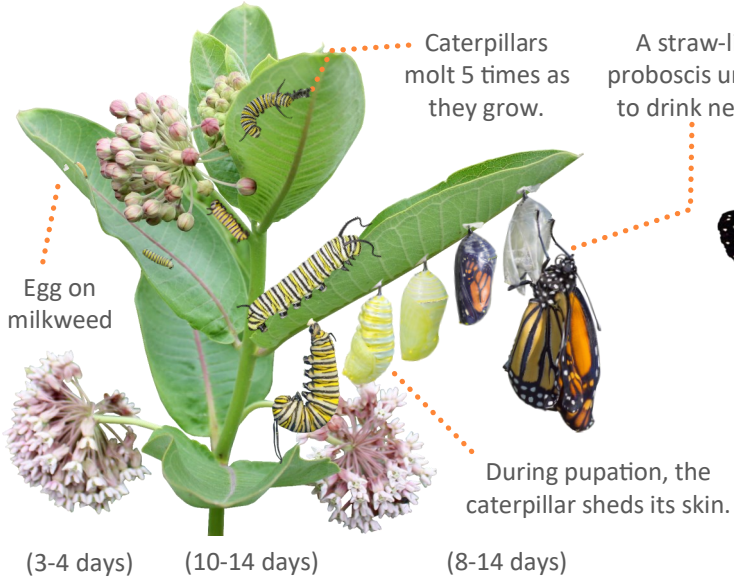
MONARCH BUTTERFLY

(Danaus plexippus)



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations



Caterpillars molt 5 times as they grow.

A straw-like proboscis uncoils to drink nectar.

Butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis, which has four stages.

Monarchs weigh less than a paper clip. Some fly thousands of miles to overwinter in Mexico.

Each year, there are four generations of monarchs. The first generations are short-lived (2-6 weeks) as they multiply throughout their range. The 4th generation migrates to Mexico, overwinters, and will restart this amazing cycle of life the following spring.

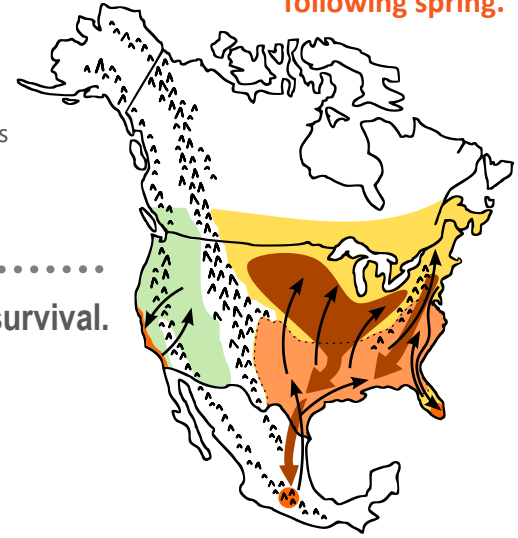
EGG

LARVA

PUPA (CHRYSALIS)

ADULT MALE

ADULT FEMALE



Black dots on hindwings

Thick veins, no dots.

Lays 400-700 eggs in her lifetime

During pupation, the caterpillar sheds its skin.

(3-4 days)

(10-14 days)

(8-14 days)

What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

NO MILKWEED, NO MONARCHS

Monarchs lay eggs on milkweeds because it's the only plant that caterpillars will eat. In the Midwest, Common Milkweed is the main host plant for monarchs. If you ate as much as a caterpillar, you'd be the size of a school bus in just 2 weeks!

Right now, monarchs need our help! To reach the goal of 225 million monarchs by 2020 we need 1.5 billion new stems of milkweed. Plant milkweed for monarchs!

MONARCH HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Anywhere there's milkweed you're likely to find monarchs. Monarch habitat also has nectar-rich flowers to feed adults. Late-blooming nectar plants such as asters, goldenrods, and sunflowers are critical during fall migration to Mexico. Monarchs overwinter in high-elevation oyamel fir forests.

Pheasants Forever works with many people who care about habitat conservation because monarchs use the same habitat as pheasants, quail, and other wildlife.



29 MILKWEED STEMS AMOUNT NEEDED TO PRODUCE ONE OVERWINTERING MONARCH.

50% THE PERCENTAGE OF MONARCHS IN MEXICO WITH MIDWESTERN ROOTS.

15 ACRES THE AVERAGE FOREST AREA OCCUPIED DURING WINTER.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit NebraskaPF.com

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1.) **True / False:** Milkweed is essential to monarch survival.

2.) **True / False:** Monarch caterpillars develop in a cocoon.

3.) **True / False:** There are two distinct populations in the U.S.

4.) **True / False:** Monarchs hibernate in the winter.

5.) **True / False:** Male and female monarchs look identical.



BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

You can help monitor monarchs and milkweed by participating in citizen science projects. Monarch tagging helped solve the amazing mystery of monarch migration patterns.



GOT HABITAT? Sketch the habitat of a Monarch Butterfly in the box.