

# MONARCH

*Danaus plexippus*

2019 STATUS

SK CDC: Imperiled/Very Rare

COSEWIC: Endangered

SARA: Special Concern

## Larva (Caterpillar)

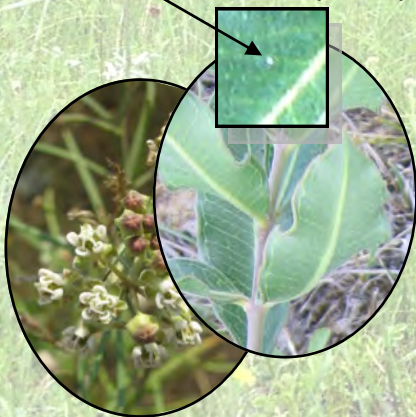


~4-5 days

~2 weeks

## Egg

actual size (~1 mm)



Larvae grow 2,000 times their size gorging only on milkweed leaves. This diet causes them to be poisonous into adulthood.

## Pupa (Chrysalis)



It takes only a few hours for a caterpillar to transform into a chrysalis.

# LIFE CYCLE

Females can lay up to 400 eggs, always on the undersides of milkweed plant leaves.

## Adult Butterfly



~1 month  
(4th generation lives up to 9 months)

~2 weeks

9 - 10 cm Wingspan

Vibrant colours of adults and larvae warn predators they are toxic.

Adults feed on nectar from wildflowers, pollinating as they go.

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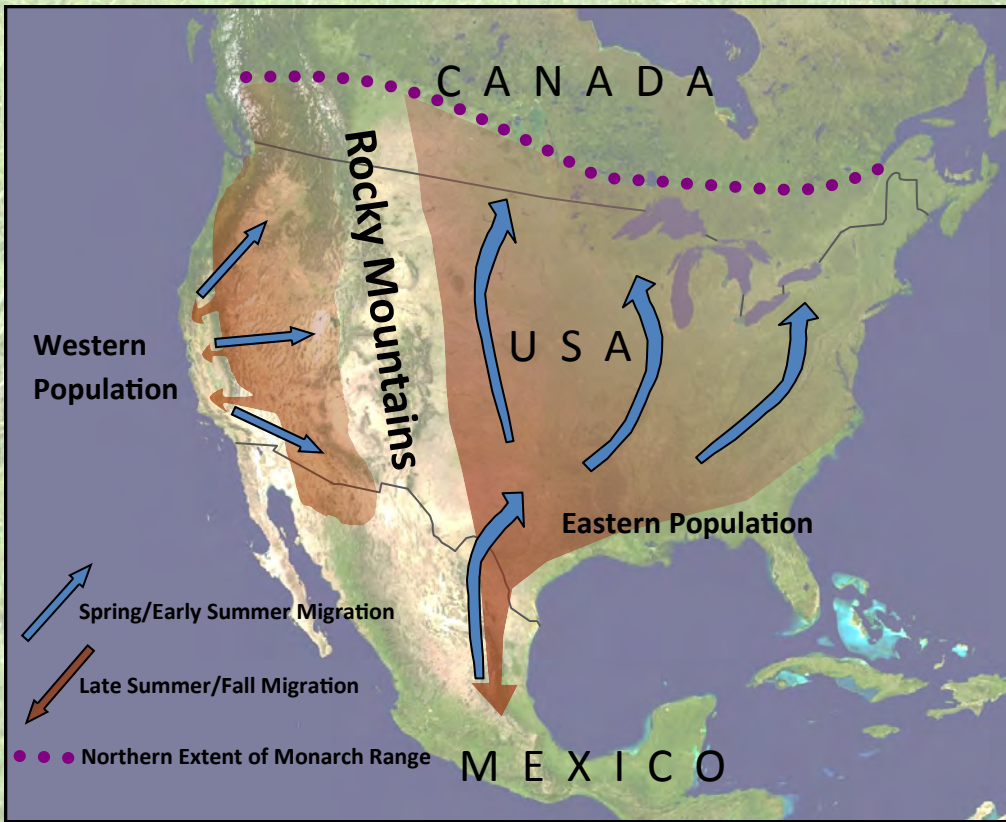
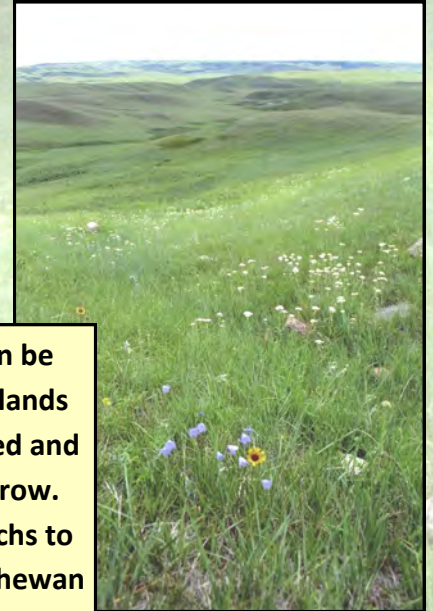
## vs. VICEROY



Monarchs have white spots and stripes on their back;

Viceroy appears completely black from above. Viceroy has a strong black line that runs along the wing veins. Viceroy wing margins lack as many defined spot markings as Monarchs and are more crescent shaped.

Monarchs can be found in grasslands where milkweed and wildflowers grow. Report Monarchs to Nature Saskatchewan 1-800-667-HOOT



There are ~3 - 4 generations of Monarchs born each summer. Each generation lives only a few weeks, migrating north and laying eggs along the way, until late August (usually the fourth generation). This generation lives up to 9 months: migrating south for up to 2 months, overwintering in central Mexico or California (depending on which side of the Rocky Mountains they live), and finally laying their eggs in spring. Millions of Monarchs undertake a migration that can be up to 6,000 miles round trip!

Monarch populations have declined by up to 90%. One of the largest threats to Monarchs is habitat loss due to logging, agriculture, urban development, and pesticide use affecting milkweed and wildflowers.

Help Monarchs by planting a butterfly garden with wildflowers and milkweed in your own backyard!

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