



THE MONARCH

(*Danaus plexippus*)

ENDANGERED

Vibrant colour of adults warn predators they are toxic. Adults feed on nectar from wildflowers, pollinating as they go.

~2 weeks



Adult Butterfly

~1 Month (Summer generations)
~9 months (Fall generation)

LIFE CYCLE

Egg



Actual size (1mm)

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

~4-5 days

Caterpillar (Larvae)



Larvae grow 2,000 times their size over 5 molt stages (called instars), feeding only on milkweed. This diet causes a toxic defense into adulthood

~2 weeks

Pupa (Chrysalis)



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



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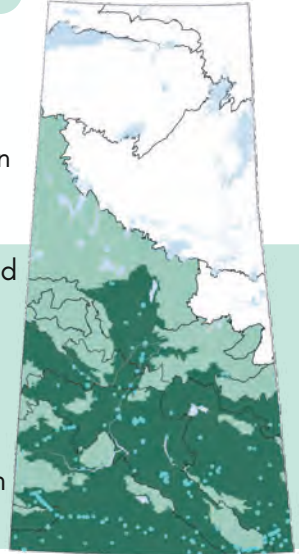
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Monarch VS. Viceroy

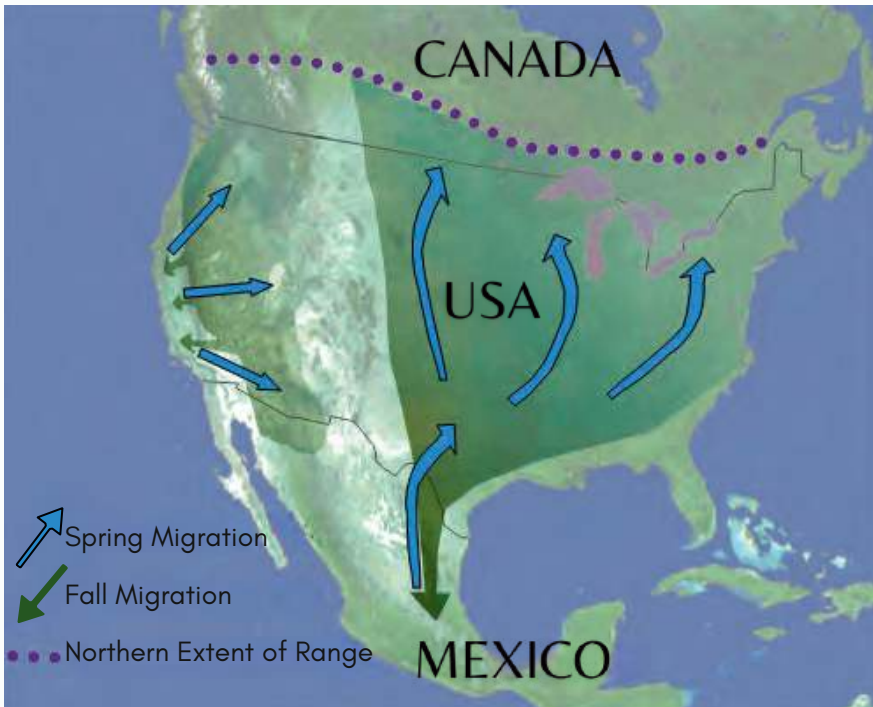
Monarchs have white spots and stripes on their back; Viceroy's appear completely black from above. Viceroy's have a strong black line that runs along the wing veins. Viceroy wing margins lack as many defined spot markings as Monarchs and are more crescent shaped.



- Known Occurrences
- Known Distribution
- Potential Distribution



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 native milkweed in your own backyard!



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