



The Story of Chester, The Monarch Caterpillar/Larva

Photo Storybook and live-action DVD for children Ages 2-10 and K-2nd grade STEM life science curriculum

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

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

<http://www.obsessionwithbutterflies.com/butterfly-host.html>

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 and yellow flowers) or NATIVE MILKWEED. It is easy to sprout milkweed seeds and raise your own plants as well.

If you plant Tropical milkweed, COMMIT TO PRUNE your plants to 6" stems and removing all leaves from Nov. 1st thru January to kill off the O.e. (microscopic parasite) and promote monarch migration in November to central coast California.

This helps insure a healthy monarch population. Find and buy native milkweed for your state here: <http://monarchbutterflygarden.net/milkweed-plant-seed-resources/>

<http://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/> (Milkweed plugs)

Nectar Plants for Monarchs - Monarch butterflies drink nectar from a great many plants, though milkweed seems to be a favorite. Try planting: 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).

Monarchs drink nectar from milkweed and a large variety of flowering plants.

More info at <http://butterflywebsite.com/butterflygardening.cfm>
<http://www.obsessionwithbutterflies.com/butterfly-nectar.html>

Pictures of butterfly varieties at <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/gallery>
KEY organization addressing efforts to save monarch butterflies/migration and general information at: www.monarchjointventure.org

THE CHRYSALIS

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.



The larva then goes on a 24-hour trek to find where it wants 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 plant to the very top! They like sturdy plants, wood posts, fences, eaves in roofs. They like to make their chrysalis on the underside of ledges and large leaves. They will find their spot and hang in a 'J' for 24 to 48 hours before forming the chrysalis.

LIFE CYCLE

- 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 – 2 days
- In the bright green chrysalis – 2 weeks
- Life as a glorious Monarch Butterfly – 4 to 6 weeks
- Overwintering butterflies live 3 to 8 months

For **FUN VIDEOS OF MONARCH LIFE CYCLE** by Susie Vanderlip, go to <http://tinyurl.com/lovemonarchs>

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Monarch Butterflies!

Presentations by Monarch Butterfly Citizen Scientist, Susie Vanderlip

More info at www.storyofchester.com

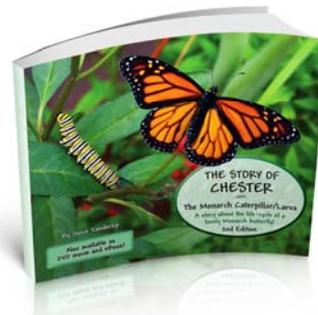
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THE STORY OF CHESTER, The Monarch Caterpillar/Larva (2nd Edition)

Author/Photographer: Susie Vanderlip

Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle photo storybook for children, ages 3 thru 10. Excite them about science and Nature through stories!

Great to share with grandkids, classroom curriculum everyone who loves butterflies!



Available at www.storyofchester.com

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eBook available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and iBookstore