

Monarch BUTTERFLY



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Scientific Name: *Danaus plexippus*

Range: Monarchs are widespread in Ontario

Monarch Butterflies migrate thousands of kilometers to Mexico where they spend the winter. In Ontario they can be found anywhere there are milkweed plants for their caterpillars and wildflowers for nectar. They can often be seen in abandoned farmland or in city gardens and parks.

WHAT ARE THE THREATS?

Monarch Butterflies face threats in both Ontario and their wintering grounds. In Ontario herbicides and pesticides are the main threats to this species.

DID YOU KNOW?

Monarch caterpillars will only feed on milkweed leaves. They will travel long distances to find milkweed plants and don't mind breeding and living near human activity, as long as the milkweed plants are

healthy. Adult Monarchs feed on the nectar of many flowers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

One of the best ways to help Monarch Butterfly populations in Ontario is to provide feeding and breeding grounds for them. This can even be done in urban areas by creating a butterfly garden. Milkweed plants are necessary for the caterpillars and the adults will feed on such flowers as Common Evening Primrose, Wild Columbine and Wild Bergamot.