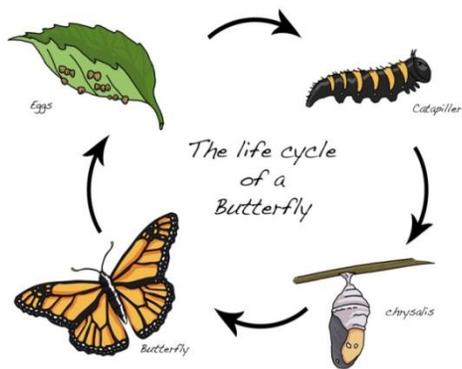


## Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle

Most Monarch butterflies live from 2 to 6 weeks as an adult butterfly, but the Monarch's migration is the KEY to its yearly life cycle.

The total time frame for one butterfly's life cycle (one generation) is about 6-8 weeks: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. It grows inside the egg for about 4 days. It then munches milkweed and grows as a monarch caterpillar (larvae) for about 2 more weeks. The caterpillar's life inside the chrysalis (pupa) lasts about 10 days and its wonderful life as an adult butterfly lasts from 2-6 weeks.



In August 2013, the Amana Garden Club of West Seneca, NY entertained speaker Mr. David O'Donnell of the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm of Clarence, NY. Mr. O'Donnell was a very dedicated speaker and the Amana Garden club members decided we would like to create a conservation project to help the Monarch butterflies. Congressman Gene Hart of West Seneca, NY was also present for the presentation and was enthusiastic after the talk. He stated he would assist us with getting permission to utilize the meadow of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center for the project.

The Amana Garden Club meets at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM. We have maintained and planted seasonal bulbs, and plants in the Meditation Gardens for many years.



Compliments of  
Amana Garden Club  
West Seneca, NY

## Story of the Monarch Butterflies



The Monarch butterfly's scientific name is *Danaus Plexippus*, which is Greek for "Sleepy Transformation".

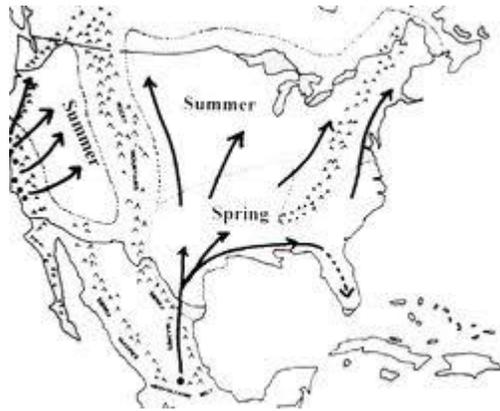
These butterflies execute a highly evolved migration, soaring 2,800 miles from forests in Mexico to far northern places including the Adirondacks, and then back again over the course of three generations.

The male Monarch butterfly may be easily distinguished from the female by noting the 2 highly visible black spots on the insect's hind wings, and the thinner black webbing within the wings.

## A Truly Marvelous Migration

It takes 2 to 3 generations of monarch butterflies to migrate north from Mexico through the U.S. up to Canada. Over time, the monarchs have developed a “Super Generation” to make the longest leg of the journey South. This “Super Generation” is bigger and lives 8 to 10 times longer than subsequent generations. These super butterflies travel as far as Canada to Mexico. Unlike other generations, they do not mate during the journey.

The monarch butterflies stay in Mexico over the winter to rest and after several months they make the first part of their journey back to the U.S. and Canada.



## Butterfly Gardening

Attracting butterflies to your garden is easy. They are attracted to a wide variety of the same fragrant perennials that you have always loved. Choose any combination of the wonderful varieties listed below to plant in your garden, and watch what nature will provide.

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Achillea                      | (Yarrow)                  |
| Alliums                       | (Flowering Onions)        |
| <b>Asclepias incarnata</b>    | <b>(Milkweed)</b>         |
| Asclepias tuberosa            | (Butterfly Weed)          |
| Buddleia                      | (Butterfly Bush)          |
| Centaurea                     |                           |
| Dianthus (esp. barbatus)      | (Sweet William)           |
| Digitalis                     | (Foxglove)                |
| Echinops                      | (Globe Thistle)           |
| Helianthus                    | (Sunflowers)              |
| Hesperis matronalis           | (Sweet Rocket)            |
| Lantana camara, montevidensis |                           |
| Liatris                       | (Gay Feather)             |
| Lilium                        | (Lilies)                  |
| Lupinus                       | (Lupine)                  |
| Monarda didyma                | (Oswego tea,<br>Bee Balm) |
| Rudbeckia spp.                |                           |
| Sedums:                       |                           |
| Autumn Joy                    |                           |
| Brilliant                     |                           |
| Variegated                    |                           |
| Rosey Glow                    |                           |



## Why are there fewer butterflies in our gardens this year?

Butterfly populations increase and decline periodically.

Or there could be a parasite that has moved into the area and is reducing the population. Additionally, a decline could be caused by a predator feeding on the caterpillars or adult butterflies.

Pesticides used on crops, even organic products, can also be deadly to caterpillars and adult butterflies.

We all know that insecticides are harmful, but so are herbicides used to get rid of weeds in ditches and other rough areas. They're killing off huge numbers of plants that feed both adult butterflies and caterpillars.

In addition, invasive plants are squeezing out some native plants that support butterflies.

Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed plants. They lay their eggs on them because they are the only food the monarch caterpillars eat. Monarch numbers are declining, partly due to the loss of open spaces where milkweeds grow. You can help give monarchs a boost by creating a milkweed garden. Offer monarchs food, drink, a place to stay, and a milkweed patch where they can leave their eggs. Monarchs will lay their eggs on the leaves and the young caterpillars feed on the plant. Milkweed flowers make a colorful splash in gardens, meadows, and other habitats. There are over 100 different milkweed species and monarchs use about 30 species.

Visit [plantmilkweed.com](http://plantmilkweed.com) to learn what species to plant in your region.