

*Help our
friend the
Monarch
Butterfly!*



Look-a-Like

Monarch butterflies look just like another butterfly called the Viceroy, except for a little stripe on their bottom wings!



Life Cycle

Monarch butterflies have four stages in their life cycle: egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly. Can you identify each stage in these pictures?



Picky Eaters

Monarch caterpillars only eat one type of plant called milkweed. Monarch caterpillars love it even though it is poisonous to other animals.

Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias Incarnata



Common Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa



Caterpillar on
milkweed



A Monarch Vacation

Wouldn't it be nice to go somewhere sunny every winter when it got cold and snowy? Well that's just what monarchs do! During the winter they fly to warm places like Mexico and California!

MIGRATORY PATTERNS

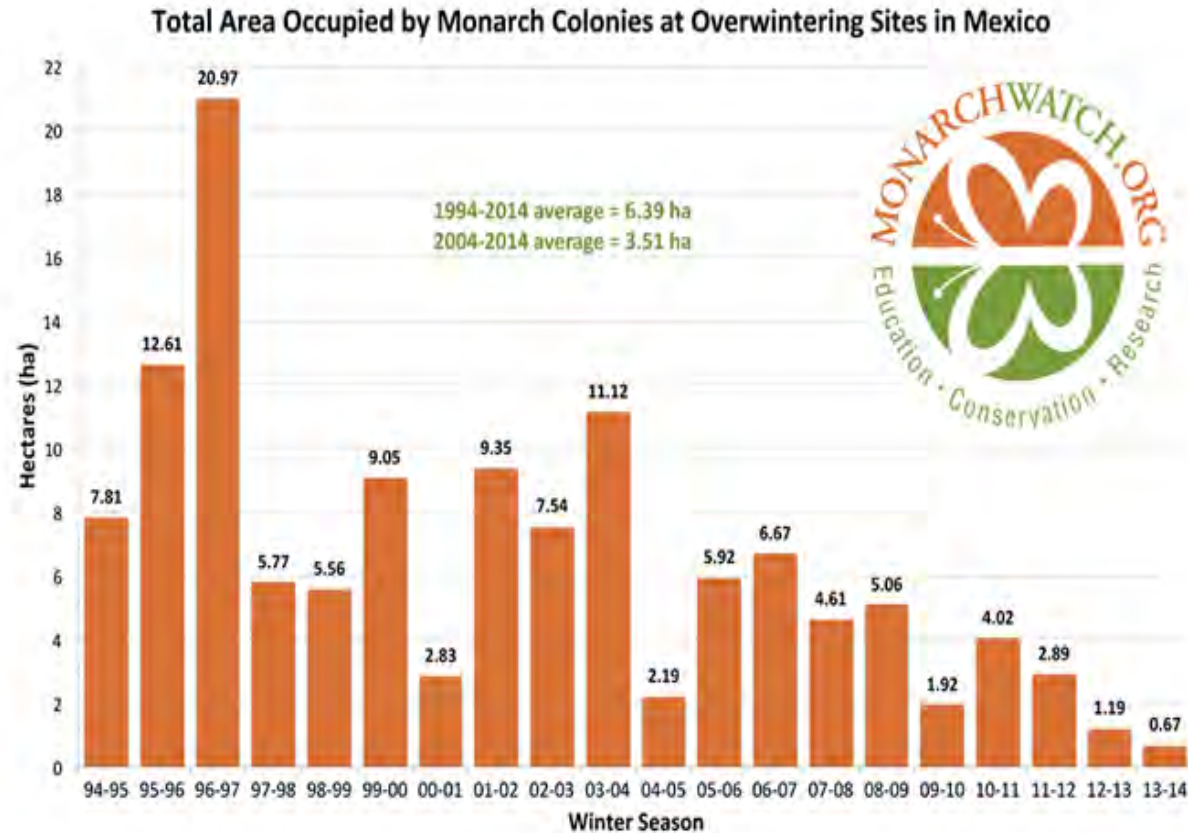
West of Rockies:
Monarchs winter in California, the Southwest

East of Rockies:
Monarchs winter in Mexico, Florida



Monarchs Need Our Help

Monarch butterflies **need** **milkweed** so their baby caterpillars can have food to eat. Look at this graph that shows numbers of Monarchs in one spot. Are there more or less Monarchs than there were before? What can we do to help them?



Why are Monarchs so cool?

Monarchs are pollinators. They carry pollen from one plant to another. When a flower is pollinated it makes seeds. Those seeds grow into new plants! Without pollinators we wouldn't have plants that give us tasty fruits and berries – like the cacao tree which gives us chocolate!



What Can We Do?

Talk with your parents about planting milkweed at home! Butterflies also like the nectar from other native plants like Joe-Pye weed and coneflower. See what butterflies you can attract to your very own butterfly garden!

