



With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable butterfly species in North America. The monarch lives throughout Minnesota during the summer. It's seen in backyards, parks, and rural areas. Monarchs develop first as an egg, continue to grow as a caterpillar, and finally emerge as a butterfly. Growing from an egg to a butterfly takes about one month. In the spring, Minnesota monarchs that have wintered in Mexico, fly north laying eggs on milkweed plants there or in southern states. Then the adult dies. One month later, the young butterflies head to Minnesota.

Monarchs eat the nectar of various flowering plants. Monarch larvae eat only milkweed.

Habitat loss and fragmentation has occurred throughout the monarch's range. Pesticide use can destroy the milkweed monarchs need to survive. A changing climate has intensified weather events which may impact monarch populations. Numbers of monarchs have decreased significantly over the last 20 years, but together we can save the monarch.

No matter who you are or where you live, you can get involved today.

**What you can do:**

1. Start by planting milkweed and nectar plants that are native to your area.
2. Garden organically to minimize your impacts on monarchs, their food plants and other pollinators.
3. Educate others about pollinators, conservation and how they can help.