



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

Author, Susie Vanderlip

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.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtm>

Milkweed for Monarchs - Host Plant

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

Anecdote: Caterpillars like making their chrysalis on sturdy plants, fences, under eaves. Plant your milkweed near these. You can plant tropical milkweed (which has **milkweed seed pods** the orange/red and yellow flowers), but it is preferred to plant **NATIVE MILKWEED**, if possible. It is easy to sprout milkweed seeds and raise your own plants as well. If you plant Tropical milkweed, plan on pruning your plants to 6" stems and removing all leaves from Nov. 1st thru mid-Feb. to kill off the O.e. (microscopic parasite) and promote monarch migration in the fall 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/>

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).



More info at www.monarchbutterflyspeaker.com Monarch Butterfly Blog
<http://butterflywebsite.com/butterflygardening.cfm>
<http://www.obsessionwithbutterflies.com/butterfly-nectar.html>
<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/gallery>

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



The Story of Chester

The Monarch Caterpillar/Larva, 2nd Edition

By Susie Vanderlip, Author & Photographer

STORYBOOK and MOVIE for children, ages 3 thru 10.

Excite them about science and Nature through stories! Great to share with grandkids, classroom curriculum, and everyone who loves butterflies!

Available as softcover Book and eBook on Amazon and iBookstore

PLUS Chester's live-action MOVIE (DVD or mp4)

Order at <http://www.storyofchester.com> or call 800-707-1977