

# POLLINATOR PROFILES MONARCHS



Monarchs are one of the most well-known species of butterfly and have the scientific name *Danaus plexippus*. They are found from Alberta to Newfoundland, most abundantly in southern Ontario and Quebec.

They are present in Canada from mid-May to September. They migrate over 4000 km each year to Mexico due to the cold winters in Canada.

As caterpillars, monarchs are distinctively white, yellow, and black-banded. As butterflies, they are orange and black, bordered with white spots. They have a wingspan of 3-4 inches. As caterpillars, they must have the milkweed plant to feed on and develop. Therefore, they can be most easily spotted on or near these plants, of which there are several dozen native species in Canada.



Fun fact: Monarchs have multiple look-alikes in nature!