

MONARCH



Photos: André-Philippe Drapeau Picard & André Sarrazin

EGG

Height	→	1.2 mm
Length	→	0.9 mm
Duration	→	3 to 8 days

DESCRIPTION

- Usually a single egg per milkweed plant, but sometimes several.
- Creme-coloured or yellowish, oval and slightly conical, covered in longitudinal raised ridges

WATCH OUT FOR FALSE EGGS!

Milkweed produces a sticky whitish sap that sometimes forms small bubbles on the leaves. Be careful not to confuse these droplets with monarch eggs!

- Small whitish bubbles, rather spherical.
- Different sizes, may resemble a monarch egg.

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Photos: André Sarrazin

CATERPILLAR

Length	→	2 to 45 mm
Width	→	0.5 à 8 mm
Head	→	0.6 to 2.2 cm
Duration	→	7 to 17 days

APPEARANCE

- Yellow, black and white stripes
- Black filaments near its head and at the tip of its abdomen (barely visible on young caterpillars)
- White spots on false legs (older caterpillars)
- Usually seen on milkweed plants, but older caterpillars move about looking for somewhere to pupate.

BEHAVIOR

Young caterpillars feed on the leaf, making semi-circular holes, starting in the centre of the leaf. After a few days, they start to feed on leaf edges.

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Photo 2: Laurent Desaulniers

CHRYSALIS

Length	→	3 cm
Width	→	1 cm
Duration	→	8 to 15 days

DESCRIPTION

- Turquoise-green, with gold spots.
- Gradually darkens until the adult colours show through the transparent case, about 24 to 48 hours before the butterfly emerges.
- Excellent camouflage! Pupae are difficult to spot in the wild.
- Often found elsewhere than on milkweed plants.

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Photos: Michel Tremblay & André Sarrazin

ADULT

Wingspan → 9 to 11 cm

Duration → 3 à 5 semaines ou
environ 8 mois
(génération migratrice)

DESCRIPTION

- Orange wings with black veins and white-spotted edges
 - Some of the largest butterflies in Canada
 - Males show circular black spots on their hind wings.
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