Did You Know?

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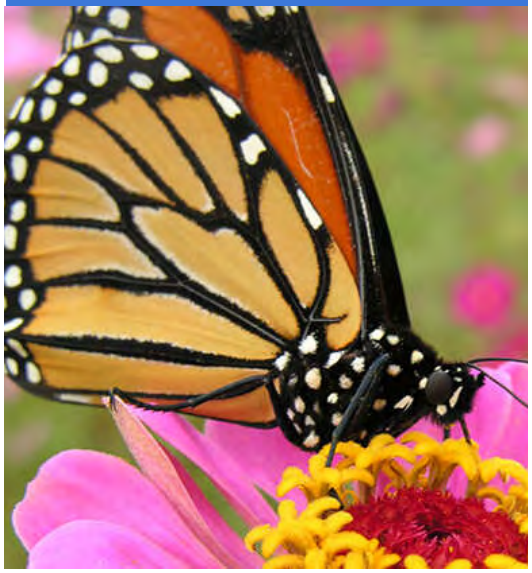

Male monarch butterflies are spotty

Every fall, **millions** of monarch butterflies fly to Mexico

Monarch butterflies have **slow-motion** clapping wings

Monarch caterpillars are picky eaters

Monarch butterflies taste yucky to birds

Monarch Butterflies: Did You Know?

Monarch Butterflies Taste With Their Feet
Monarch butterflies have tiny taste sensors on their feet! By standing on a leaf, they can taste it to see if their caterpillars can eat it. *Photo credit: Suzanne DeJohn, www.gardeners.com*

Monarch Butterflies Have Slow-Motion Clapping Wings
Monarch butterflies flap their wings more slowly than most other butterflies, making them easy to identify! The average butterfly flaps its wings around 20 times per second, while monarchs flap around 5–12 times per second.

Male Monarch Butterfly Males Are Spotty
Male monarch butterflies have a black spot on each back wing—female butterflies do not! Female monarchs often look darker than males and have wider veins on their wings.

Monarch Caterpillars Are Picky Eaters
Monarch caterpillars will only eat milkweed plants! They eat and grow really fast, increasing their weight almost 3,000 times in 10-15 days!

Every Fall, Millions of Monarch Butterflies Fly to Mexico
Migrating monarch butterflies miraculously fly more than 1,500 miles to a place they have never been! How monarchs find their way to the same forests in Mexico that their ancestors overwintered remains an unsolved scientific mystery.
Photo credit: Charlie Roberto

Monarch Butterflies Taste Yucky to Birds
The orange and black pattern of monarchs is a warning—it says "Don't eat me, I taste bad!" Birds that try to eat monarch butterflies may make themselves sick.
See "The Case of the Barfing Blue Jay:" www.sciencefriday.com/articles/the-case-of-the-barfing-blue-jay/

Westchester Land Trust

Thanks to Con Edison for partially funding this Westchester Land Trust program and for supporting local efforts to make our communities more pollinator friendly.

For more information on pollinators, visit bit.ly/WLTbees.

POLLINATOR POP-UP
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