



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar Raising Kit Instructions



Warning: Monarch caterpillars/butterflies and Milkweed are mildly toxic if consumed by humans or animals. Adult supervision is required and always wash hands before and after handling plants and insects. Milkweed sap must not come into contact with eyes. If you develop foggy vision or sore eyes after handling milkweed please seek medical attention.

About Milkweed and Monarchs: Monarch Butterfly caterpillars eat strictly milkweed for sustenance and have lost over 90% of its population in the last decade mostly due to loss of the plants. They use Milkweed's toxins as a defense mechanism against predators. The plants we have supplied in your kit is common Milkweed gathered locally from Melita and Area and has been washed with bleach water to reduce the amount of OE spores, a parasitic organism that only infects Monarchs. **Monarch Caterpillars have less than a 1 in 10 chance of becoming a Monarch Butterfly in the wild!**

Caring For Your Caterpillar:

Your kit will contain: 1 bug cage

1 Monarch Caterpillar or egg

1 bag of Milkweed leaves **(KEEP REFRIDGERATED)**

Egg should hatch 1-3 days after receiving your kit. Keep your caterpillar/eggs indoors away from direct sunlight. Clean the cage daily of droppings, old milkweed leaves, wipe off any condensation and add a new bottom liner (napkin or toilet paper). The caterpillar will occasionally stop eating and climb to the side/lid of the container. This means the caterpillar is going to shed its skin (molting can take 12-36 hours), *Please wait a minimum of 3 hours after it molts before disturbing the cage to prevent damage to the caterpillars new skin. * Leaves need to be changed everyday, add leaves as needed. After 2-3 weeks the caterpillar will move to the top of the enclosure away from the leaves. It will hang in what looks like a "J" and start to form the chrysalis, line the bottom of the cage with paper towel to keep the Butterfly dry if it falls down when it emerges. In about 14 days the chrysalis will look black and the Monarch will emerge, usually in the morning. Wait 6 hours before releasing your butterfly in the wild. Release on a calm sunny day, at least 2 hours before sunset.



If you run out of Milkweed please check your local greenhouse or roadways. Any Milkweed will work as food. We are happy to answer any questions just send us a message on our Facebook page!

[Facebook.com/MelitaMonarchs](https://www.facebook.com/MelitaMonarchs)

www.MonarchHomestead.ca

