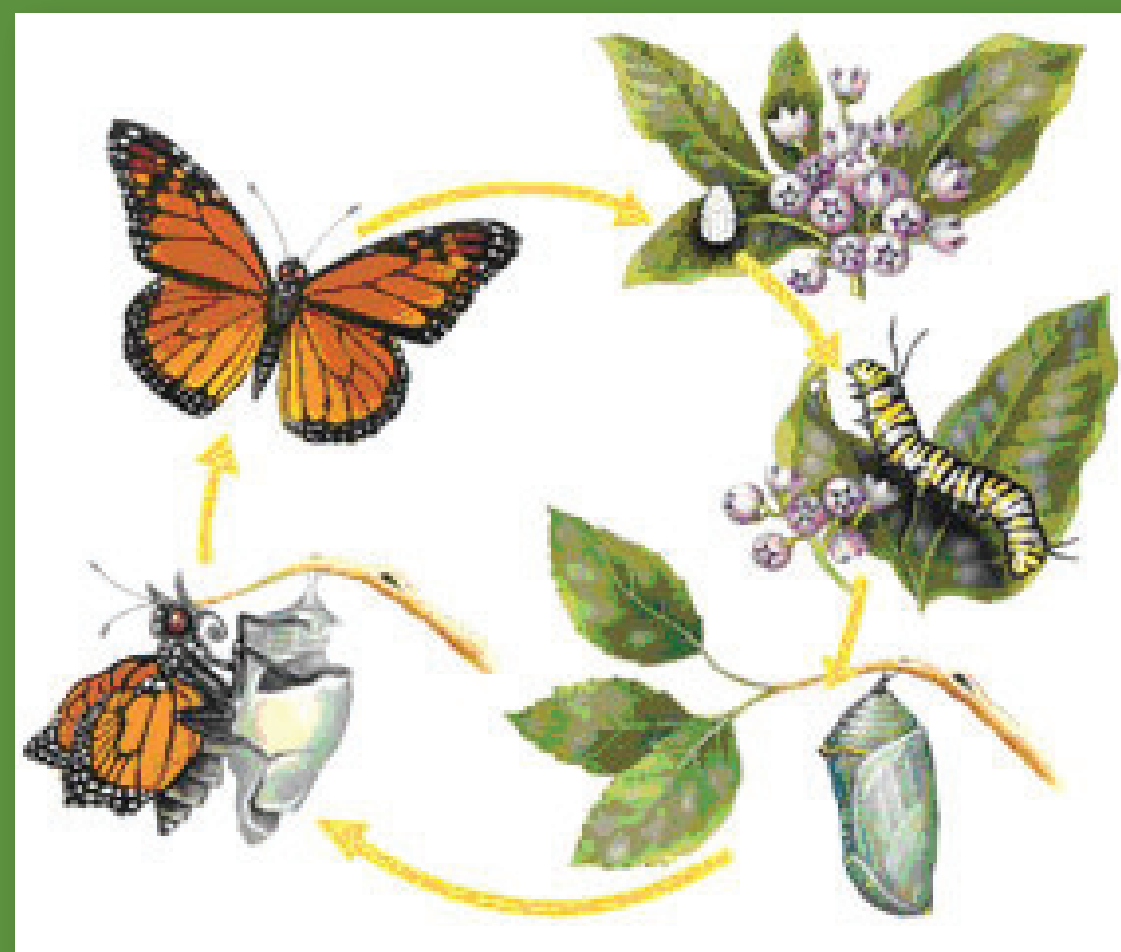


MONARCH GARDEN

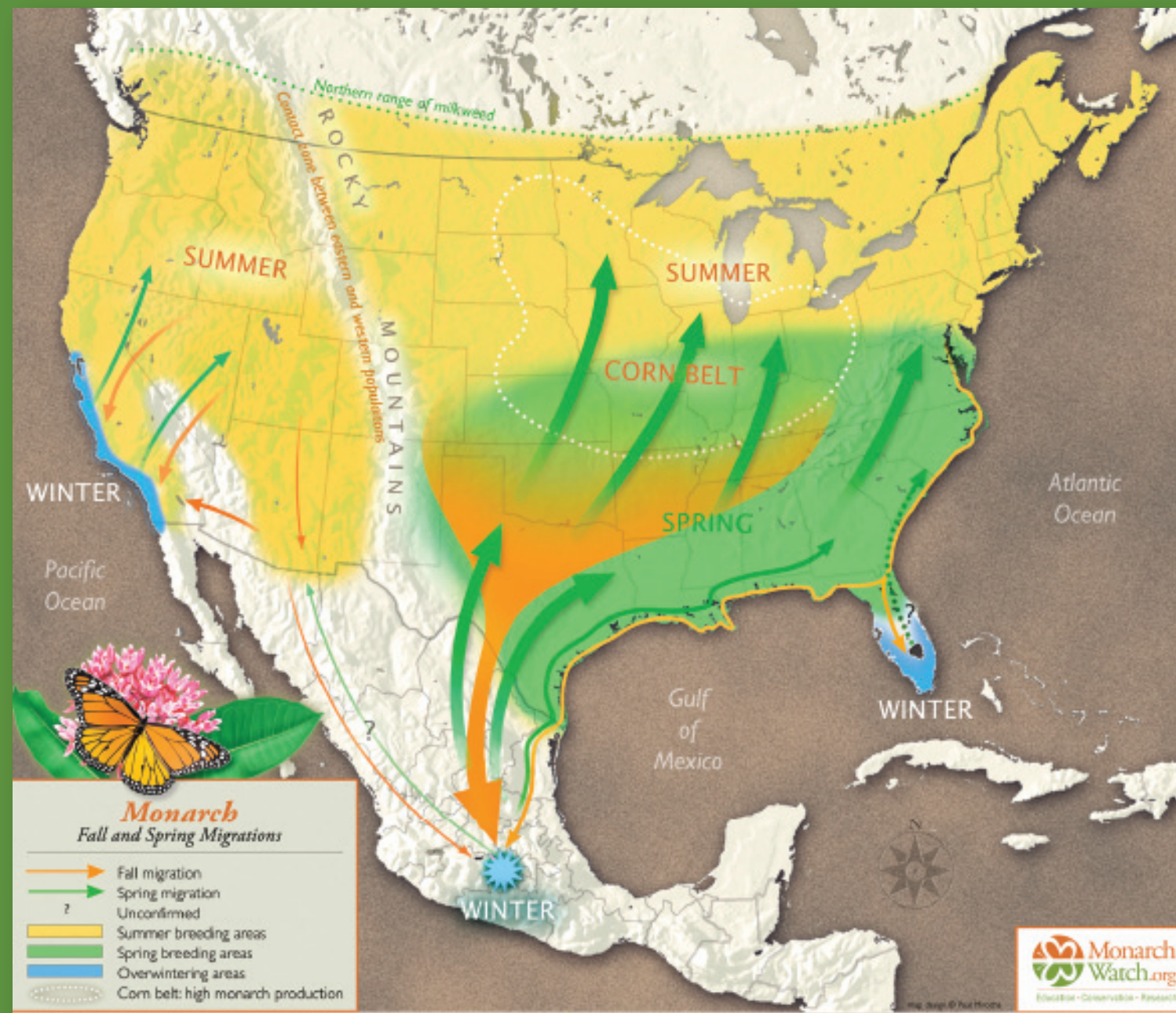
Nature's Great Migratory Wonder

Each fall monarchs migrate to central Mexico where they overwinter in large clusters on trees in the mountains. They return in the spring with the females laying eggs on milkweeds, the only plants on which monarch larvae will feed. At the end of summer, after 3-4 generations, the migration starts again.



Monarchs, like bees, beetles and flies, have four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult (butterfly).

While caterpillars need milkweeds to feed on, the adults need nectar for water and energy. To create habitats for monarchs it's necessary to grow both milkweeds and nectar plants such as asters, coneflowers and joe pye weed.



Did you know?



A fully-grown monarch caterpillar can weigh 2000 times more than when it first hatched from the egg.



Monarchs that fly to Mexico and return in the spring can live up to 9 months.



It takes at least two months for monarchs to fly from the north to the overwintering areas in Mexico. The overwintering sites were not known to science until 1975.



Monarch populations are declining due to the loss of milkweed habitats. To maintain the magnificent monarch migration, planting milkweeds needs to become a priority.

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