

Jackson County Conservation
Summer 2020—Weekly Nature Activity

We hope that our weekly nature activities can provide some outdoor fun for you and your family this summer. You are welcome to gather your own supplies for the activities or pick up an activity kit we have prepared. This week we have monarch egg & caterpillars available for people to raise at home. They must be picked up inside the Hurstville Interpretive Center between 9-4 Monday-Friday. Call ahead (563) 652-3783 to ensure availability.

Week 6: July 13

Rearing Caterpillars

Learn more about butterfly life cycles!

Activity 1:

Head outside to your backyard or a nearby park and look for caterpillars on flowers and trees. Use our guide to identify what you find and learn what plants different caterpillars eat.

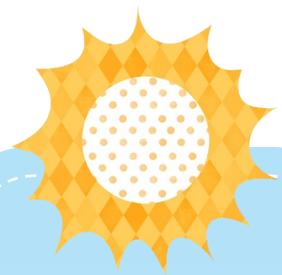
Activity 2:

Raise a caterpillar in your home and watch it go through its life cycle! Raising caterpillars can be very rewarding and help you learn more about butterflies and their life cycles.

We will have a limited supply of monarch egg and caterpillars at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, beginning July 13. They can be picked up between 9-4 Monday-Friday, while supplies last. Feel free to call ahead for availability.

This link provides great information on how to raise a monarch caterpillar: <https://monarchwatch.org/rear/index.htm>

You can raise other caterpillar species too. Just make sure you identify what you have so you can look up it's life cycle and food preferences. Use a clean jar with holes in the lid or a paper towel with a rubber band. Make sure to give the caterpillar clean food regularly.



Monarch Butterfly

The life cycle of a monarch butterfly has four stages and four generations.

The stages are egg, larvae (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult (butterfly).

The four generations refers to four butterflies passing through these four stages within a year here in Iowa.

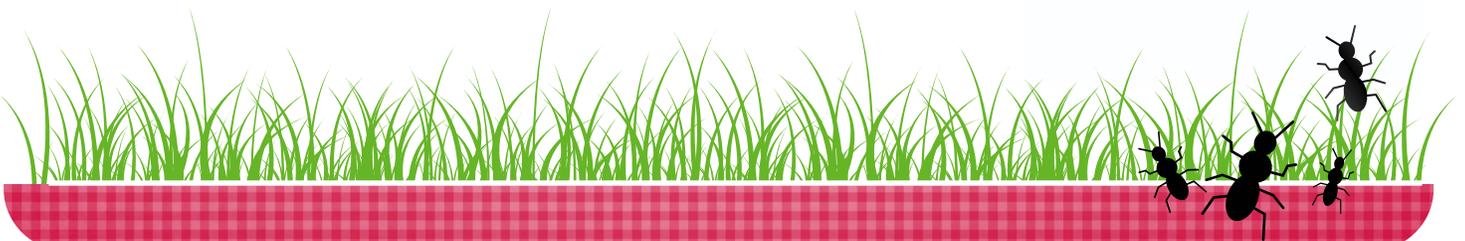
Monarch eggs are laid on milkweed species. Monarch caterpillars only eat leaves of milkweed plants.

It takes about 20 days for a monarch egg to become a butterfly.



Contact Us

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Caterpillar ID Guide

Monarch

These caterpillars live and feed on milkweed species only. Look for the black, white and yellow stripes.



Black Swallowtail

This caterpillar eats leaves of carrots, celery, dill and other plants in the carrot family. It mimics the monarch caterpillar.



Tiger Swallowtail

This caterpillar is sometimes seen crawling down trunks of ash and cherry trees in early summer. They are common in North America.



Red Admiral

This caterpillar lives in nests or leaf shelters on nettles including stinging nettles. Nettles can be found near rivers and streams.



Painted Lady

Painted ladies migrate in large numbers. The caterpillar is spiny, but harmless, and they eat a variety of different plants.



Cabbage White

Caterpillars eat plants in the mustard family and can be found in many habitats, including gardens, weedy areas, and roadsides.



Luna Moth

This caterpillars eats birch, walnut, sweetgum, and hickory. They are usually found in forest areas and are attracted to lights.



Woolly Bear

A well known caterpillar that becomes an Isabella tiger moth. They eat many plants, such as maple, elm, grass, and clover.



Tomato Hornworm

This caterpillar is often found on tomato plants. They are found across North America. The adult is the five-spotted hawk moth.

