

# The Great Monarch Migration

A **3,000** mile journey

**A** Monarch butterflies can be found overwintering in the oyamel fir forests of southern Mexico. This site offers the ideal weather conditions that the butterflies need.

**B** Beginning in March the monarchs known as the Migration Generation start to make their way north from Mexico to begin their spring breeding. When the monarchs get to Texas in mid-March, they begin to lay their eggs, which hatch into what is known as the First Generation.

A majority of monarch butterflies travel along the **I-35 Corridor**

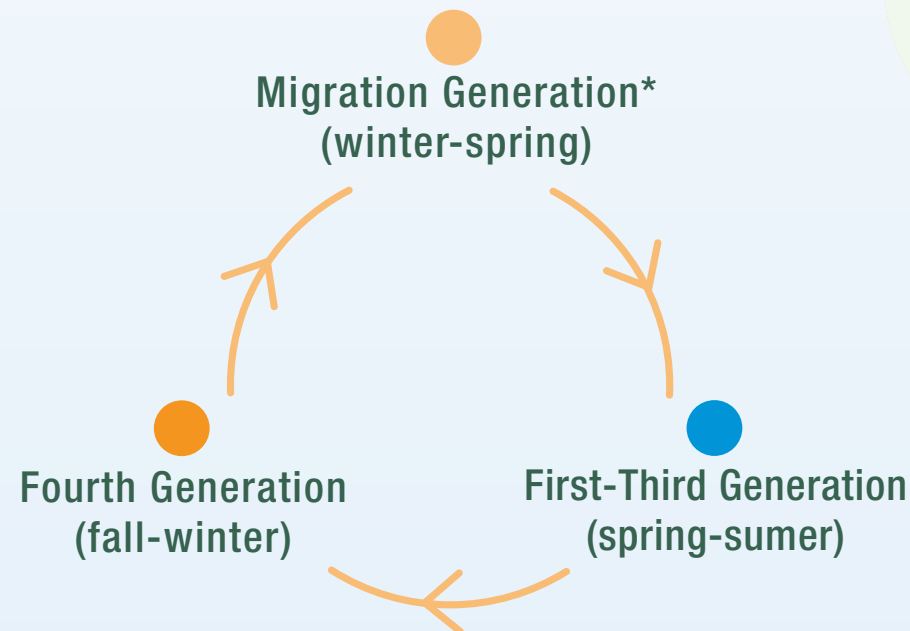
Monarchs only lay their eggs on **Milkweed**, which is the sole food source for their larvae

**Nectar Plants** serve as food for mature butterflies

**C** The First Generation spends its spring transitioning from caterpillars to monarch butterflies and traveling north and east, reproducing along the way. Three more monarch generations will follow the first and each will lay their own round of eggs.

**D** The Fourth Generation monarchs, the great-great grandchildren of the Migration Generation, are the ones that migrate south to Mexico in the fall. These monarchs travel up to 100 miles every day.

**A** The Fourth Generation monarchs overwinter in the oyamel fir forests. The following spring, the Fourth Generation monarchs become the Migration Generation, beginning the incredible journey northward, continuing the cycle of many more monarch generations.



\*Fourth Generation becomes Migration Generation in spring

The Fourth Generation monarchs overwinter in the very same **Oyamel Fir** branches as their ancestors

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