

## MONARCH

*Danaus plexippus*

**Order:** Lepidoptera  
**Family:** Nymphalidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S4  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** none



**Description:** Large (ca. 9-10 cm wingspan) orange, black, and white butterfly.

**Similar Species:** Gulf fritillary, queen, and viceroy butterflies are superficially similar.

**Habitat:** This species occurs in various terrestrial habitats.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Varies by region, but present year-round in some parts of the state.

**Florida Distribution:** Statewide

**Range-wide Distribution:** Occurs regularly as a native species from southern Canada through the continental United States and well into northern South America, but has been documented in many other areas of the world that it has spread or strayed to.

**Conservation Status:** Although still relatively common in most of the state, monarchs have declined precipitously in at least one area.

**Protection and Management:** Manage for native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and avoid pesticide use.

**References:** Brower et al. 2018



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