

Monarch Condition – Updated Fall 2023

Rate the condition of the monarch wings



Condition 4: Freshly eclosed
Looks like a newly eclosed butterfly.
No fading or wing damage.



Condition 3: Excellent
Perfect with good, rich coloring.
No scratches in orange; pristine.
Small wing rip okay if no scratches.



Condition 2: Fair to Good
Little to significant fading, small or significant scratches, but no other wing damage.



Condition 1: Poor
Significant tattering, a whole wing or a piece of a wing missing.
Shredded wings. Extreme fading.

Southwest Monarch Study – www.swmonarchs.org

Tagging Monarch Butterflies

Male Monarch:



Thin veins and black dots on the top side of the lower wing



Small bump or blemish visible on the 3rd vein in side view

Female Monarch:



Thicker black veins, no black dots



No bump on 3rd vein side view

Where to place the tag



Press and hold tag for 3 seconds then release to secure tag to wing