Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains return to the California coast, where they roost in eucalyptus trees, Monterey pines and Monterey cypresses.
Monarchs east of the Rockies migrate each year to the Transvolcanic mountains of central Mexico. Millions of butterflies from the central and eastern Canadian provinces and the eastern and midwestern United States fly south to Mexico. Their flight pattern is shaped like a cone, as they come together and pass over the state of Texas on their way south.
Oyamel Fir Tree

• Monarchs overwinter on Oyamel fir trees in Mexico.

• The *sacred fir* or *Abies religiosa* (known as *oyamel* in Spanish) is a fir tree native to the mountains of central and southern Mexico (*Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt, Sierra Madre del Sur*) and western Guatemala.

• It grows at high altitudes of 6,900–13,500 ft in cloud forests with cool, humid summers and dry winters in most of its habitat regime.
Tennessee Monarch Migration

- The peak of the monarch migration in Great Smoky Mountain NP (Latitude 35.6) is Sept 24 through Oct 6.
Monarch Tag
Tagging Monarchs

• [https://www.monarchwatch.org/tagging/](https://www.monarchwatch.org/tagging/)

• [https://www.thebutterflynetwork.org/program/tennessee-butterfly-monitoring-network](https://www.thebutterflynetwork.org/program/tennessee-butterfly-monitoring-network)

Monarch Caterpillar
Monarch caterpillar changing into chrysalis
Chrysalis
Monarch butterfly emerging from chrysalis
How do butterflies know where to lay their eggs?

• Female butterflies drum on the leaf surface with their feet.

• Drumming scratches the leaf surface, releasing chemicals enabling the butterfly to identify the correct plant on which to lay her eggs.