



# BUTTERFLIES GO FREE

An event produced by the Insectarium de Montréal

## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO INVITE BUTTERFLIES INTO YOUR GARDEN?

### 4 reasons to share our habitat with butterflies:

1. They help with pollination.
2. They play an important role in the food chain by serving as a food source for small mammals, birds, frogs and other insects.
3. A butterfly-friendly garden encourages overall biodiversity.
4. A butterfly-friendly garden can beautify your life, too!

### 5 things you need to create your own butterfly garden:

1. Nectar plants (to feed the butterflies)
2. Host plants (to feed the caterpillars)
3. Sunshine
4. A site sheltered from the wind
5. A pesticide-free garden

Creating a monarch oasis is a concrete way of helping them survive! You can even have your garden certified under the *My Space for Life Garden* program.

[espacepouurlavie.ca/en/create-your-monarch-oasis](http://espacepouurlavie.ca/en/create-your-monarch-oasis)

### Want to do more?

Join Mission Monarch: [mission-monarch.org](http://mission-monarch.org)

Sign the monarch manifesto: [action2.davidsuzuki.org/monarchs](http://action2.davidsuzuki.org/monarchs)

## STAR BUTTERFLIES

### MONARCH

*Danaus plexippus*

With their orange and black-striped wings, monarchs are the best-known butterflies in Quebec.

### GLASSWING BUTTERFLY

*Greta oto*

Their transparent wings let them blend into the background.

### BLUE MORPHO

*Morpho helenor*

Morphos' wings are a dazzling blue. But when they hold their wings closed above their bodies, they're impossible to spot amidst the trees.

## DATES

February 22 to April 29, 2018

## HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open on Monday, March 5 (March Break) and April 2 (Easter)

## PLACE

Jardin botanique de Montréal  
4101, rue Sherbrooke Est ☎ Pie-IX

## INFO

[montrealspaceforlife.ca](http://montrealspaceforlife.ca)

## FACTS

Number of butterflies in the greenhouses  
**1,500 to 2,000**

Number of butterflies released every day  
**approx. 100\***

Number of butterflies released during the event  
**between 15,000 and 20,000**

Number of species present during the event  
**approx. 75**

Number of species typically seen during a visit  
**approx. 50**

Where do the butterflies come from?

**Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Tanzania and United States**

Temperature in the greenhouses  
**24°C to 29°C\*\***

Number of educators in the greenhouses  
**3 to 5**

Attendance since 1998  
**2,394,670**

Nectar-bearing plants

**Butterfly bush • Hyacinth • Yellow sage • Star duster • Indian hawthorn • Lollypop plant**

Host plants\*\*\*

**Milkweed • Powder puff plant • Key lime • Guava • Passion flower • Banana**

\* The Insectarium staff releases the butterflies and moths in front of visitors (schedule varies).

\*\* With relative humidity of between 35% and 60%, the humidex reaches highs of 25°C to 36°C.

\*\*\* Plants where females lay their eggs.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO SEE THE BUTTERFLIES? WHEN ARE THEY MOST ACTIVE?

- Butterflies are generally more active in the morning, on sunny days, and when there is a change in atmospheric pressure.
- Those that are active at dusk become active around sunset

### HOW LONG DO BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS LIVE?

Butterflies live **one month, on average**, with some major differences in life spans. Some don't eat, meaning that they lead very short lives - just a few days, enough time to find a partner and mate. Others beat longevity records, such as the monarchs that fly all the way from Quebec to Mexico for the winter.

### WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST INSECTS IN THIS YEAR'S EVENT?

The *Attacus atlas*, *Attacus lorquini* and *Attacus caesar* moths are between 20 and 30 cm. All three come from Southeast Asia.

### HOW MANY SPECIES OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS ARE THERE IN THE WORLD?

There are almost **175,000** species of moths and butterflies in the world. Nearly **12,500** are found in **North America** and **2,965** in **Quebec**.

### HOW LONG HAVE BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS BEEN ON EARTH?

According to scientists, the oldest known butterfly fossil is about **190 million years old**.

### DO ALL CATERPILLARS BECOME BUTTERFLIES OR MOTHS?

**YES.** They systematically go through a number of stages: egg, caterpillar, pupa and butterfly or moth. The time the insect spends as a caterpillar allows it to store energy, while it undergoes profound anatomical and physiological changes as a pupa, and adulthood is devoted to reproduction.

### WHERE DO THESE BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS COME FROM?

The insects in *Butterflies Go Free* come from butterfly farms in more than 10 different countries. Butterfly farms are a way to protect butterflies and their habitats by creating fair-trade, sustainable businesses that get local communities living near forests involved. By encouraging butterfly farms through the years, the Insectarium has preserved more than 500 hectares of rainforest in Costa Rica: the equivalent of 1,000 soccer fields.