

MONARCH WATCH TAGGING SYSTEM

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR 2018

- (1) Please submit your tagging data online if at all possible. This allows us to compile the data more efficiently. Datasheets and complete instructions are available at monarchwatch.org/tagging
- (2) Make note of the number of tags you receive and the series of tag codes (for example, ABC500-999, XYZ300-349) - we would like you to include this information when you submit your data.
- (3) Be sure to provide complete contact information - we need to know how to contact you if there are questions about your data.
- (4) It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you record the complete six-symbol tag code (for example, ABC123) for each monarch you tag - partial codes can make identifying your butterfly virtually impossible.
- (5) Record tags in sequential order.
- (6) Double check everything to make sure your data are accurate and complete.
- (7) Submit your tagging data to us at the end of your tagging season, by December 1st if possible. Submission online (see above) is preferred.

INSTRUCTIONS

Tag Code. Record the complete tag code for each monarch in the format of 3 letters followed by 3 numbers.

Date. Record the release date - month, day and year.

(M)ale / (F)emale. If possible, indicate the sex of the butterflies you tag; leave blank if unknown. See figure below for guidance.

(R)eared / (W)ild. Indicate whether the adult monarch was **reared** from the egg, larva, or pupa stage (R) or captured as a **wild** adult butterfly (W).

Tagging Location. Record the nearest city, state (province) and zip (postal) code - for example: Lawrence, Kansas, 66047

You might find it easier to work with a partner, taking turns tagging and recording data.

1. Carefully hold a monarch between your thumb and index finger along the leading edge of the butterfly's forewings (close to the body, not the tip) and locate the discal cell (large mitten-shaped cell on hindwings). See figure A below.

2. Record all data before removing a tag from the sheet.

3. Remove a tag from the sheet by its edge (a toothpick might be helpful), place it over the discal cell of either hindwing and carefully apply pressure to the tag from both sides of the butterfly (see figure B for placement) using your fingers. Press firmly for several seconds and release the butterfly - again, making sure all of the information is recorded first!

Try not to allow the tag to stick to any other surface, such as your finger, before applying it to the butterfly - to be most effective, the adhesive of the tag must be clean when applied to the wing.



It's pretty easy to tell a male monarch (above) from a female monarch (below) when you know what to look for.

