





Monarch Instars

Monarch caterpillars have five growth stages, also known as instars. During the first instar, the larva is about 2-6mm and are pale green to grayish-white in color. In the second instar, it grows up to about 9mm and starts to form a color pattern of black, yellow and white bands. Next, in the third instar, the larva is about 10-14mm and the black, yellow and white bands on the larvae are more distinct. During the fourth instar, the larva has nearly doubled in size and its tentacles are now spanning 5mm. Finally in the fifth instar, it has now reached around 45mm and its beautiful patterns and colors are even more vibrant.



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