

SHAMROCKGARDENS.ORG

Variegated Fritillary – “Frit” for short



Variegated Fritillary – Life Cycle



Butterfly



Egg

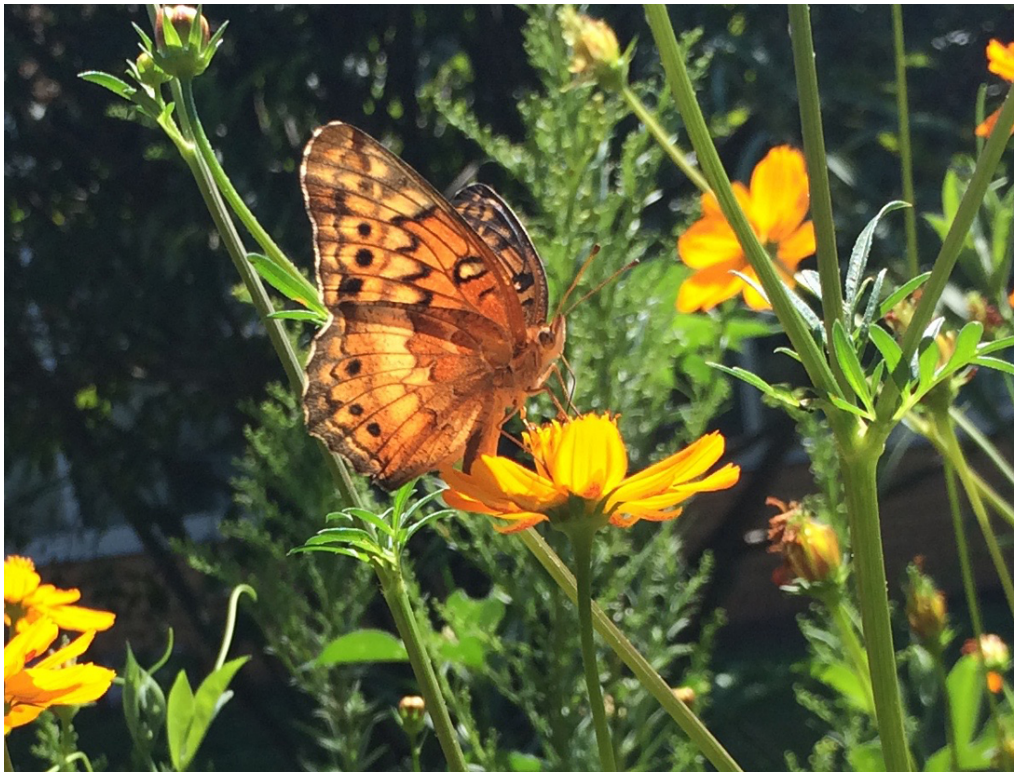


Caterpillar



Chrysalis

Variegated Fritillary – Nectar Plants



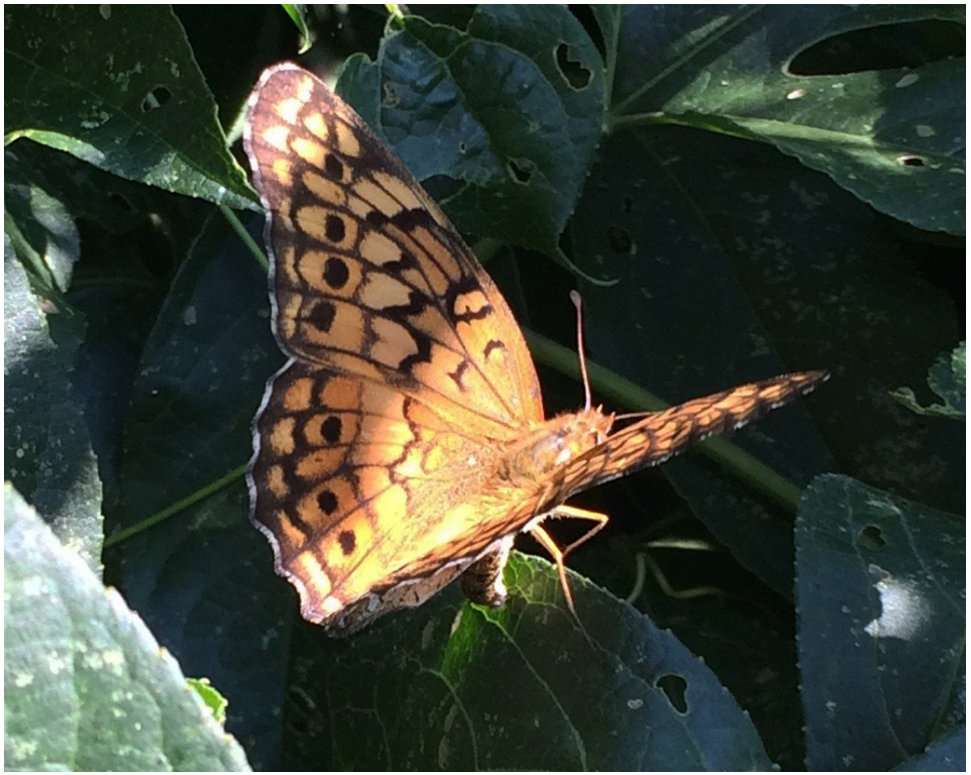
Butterflies sip nectar from flowering “nectar plants.”
They can sip nectar from almost any flower.

Variegated Fritillary – Host Plants



Caterpillars eat leaves. They can only eat the leaves of of “host plants.” Each kind of caterpillar has a different host plant.

Variegated Fritillary



A mother butterfly must find the right host plant to lay her eggs. She taps leaves with her feet to “taste” them.

Variegated Fritillary – Host Plant



The Fritillary host plant is the Passion Vine

Variegated Fritillary



Shamrock’s passion vines.

Variegated Fritillary



Caterpillars start out small but get big fast. To grow, they must shed their skins.

Variegated Fritillary – Caterpillars



After caterpillars eat, they poop.

Variegated Fritillary – Don’t Worry!



If Fritillaries get scared, they try to escape by dropping off their leaves and curling up. They’ll get back to the leaves soon.

Variegated Fritillary – Chrysalis



When a Fritillary is ready to make a chrysalis, it uses silk to fasten its feet to a sturdy surface. Then it hangs in a “J” shape.

Variegated Fritillary – Chrysalis



It shrinks and hardens.

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Variegated Fritillary – Chrysalis



The caterpillar stays in the chrysalis for one or two weeks.

Variegated Fritillary – Butterfly



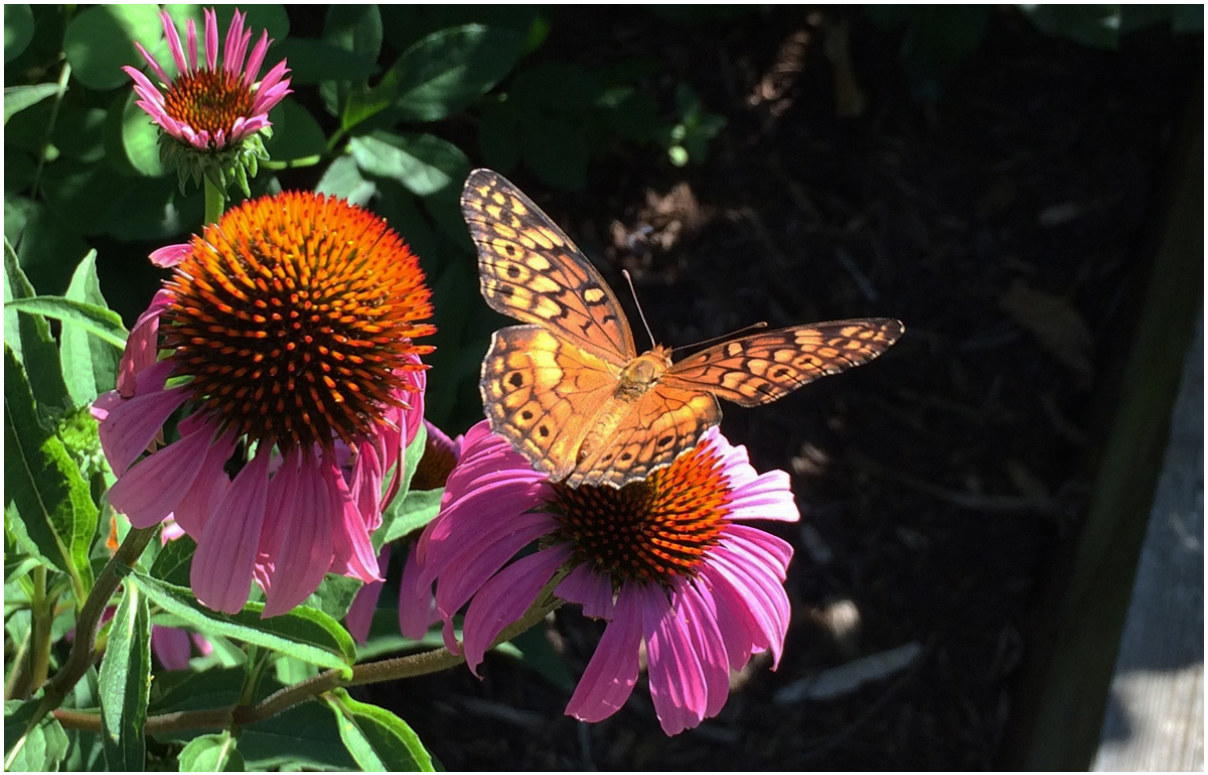
Then a butterfly emerges.

Variegated Fritillary – Don’t Worry!



When a Fritillary emerges from a chrysalis, red liquid comes out too. It isn’t blood! The spiky black things are shed skins.

Variegated Fritillary



The cycle starts again.