

SHAMROCKGARDENS.ORG

Hunting Eggs and Caterpillars



Life Stages to Look For



Butterfly



Chrysalis



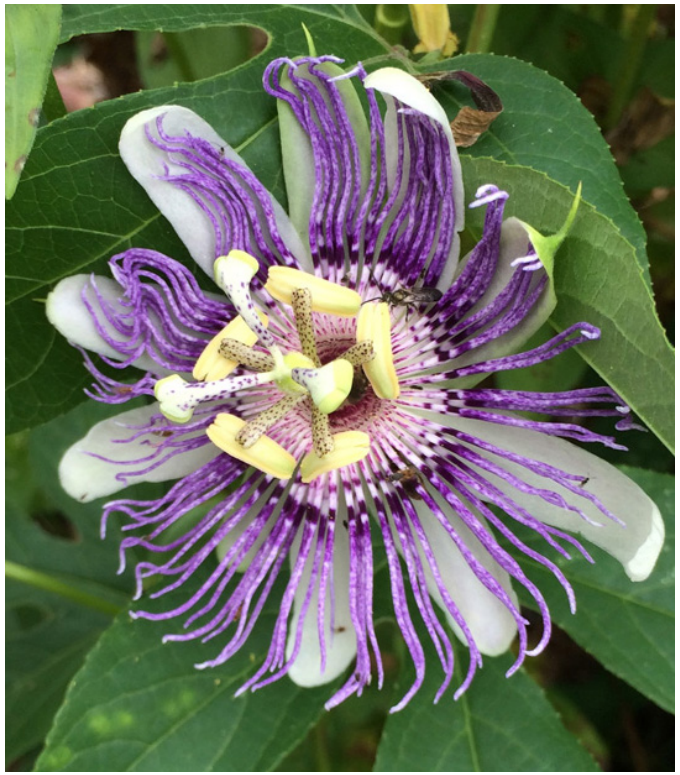
Caterpillar



Egg

Fritillaries





Host plant: Passionvine

Sulfurs





Host plant: Senna

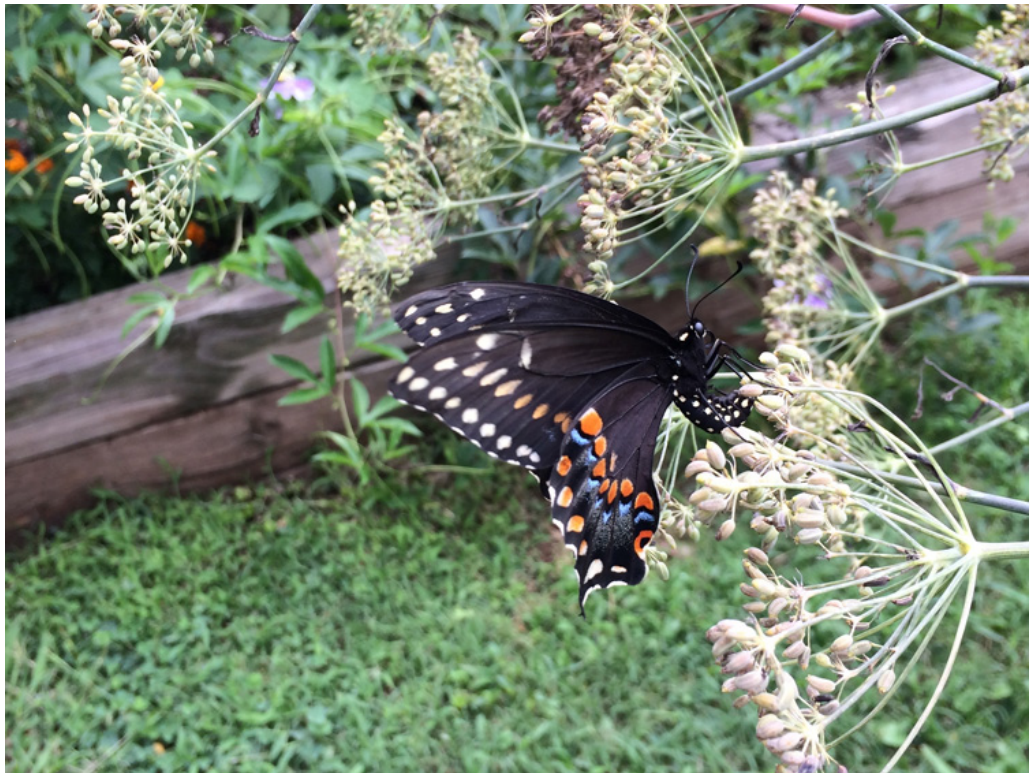
Eastern Black Swallowtails





Host plants: Parsley, Fennel

Follow the Moms



A good way to find eggs is to see a mother butterfly laying them.
If a butterfly is landing on one leaf after another, she's probably looking for a host plant.

Look for the Host Plants



Eastern Black Swallowtail eggs on parsley

Look for the Host Plants



Sulfur eggs on senna

Look for the Poop!



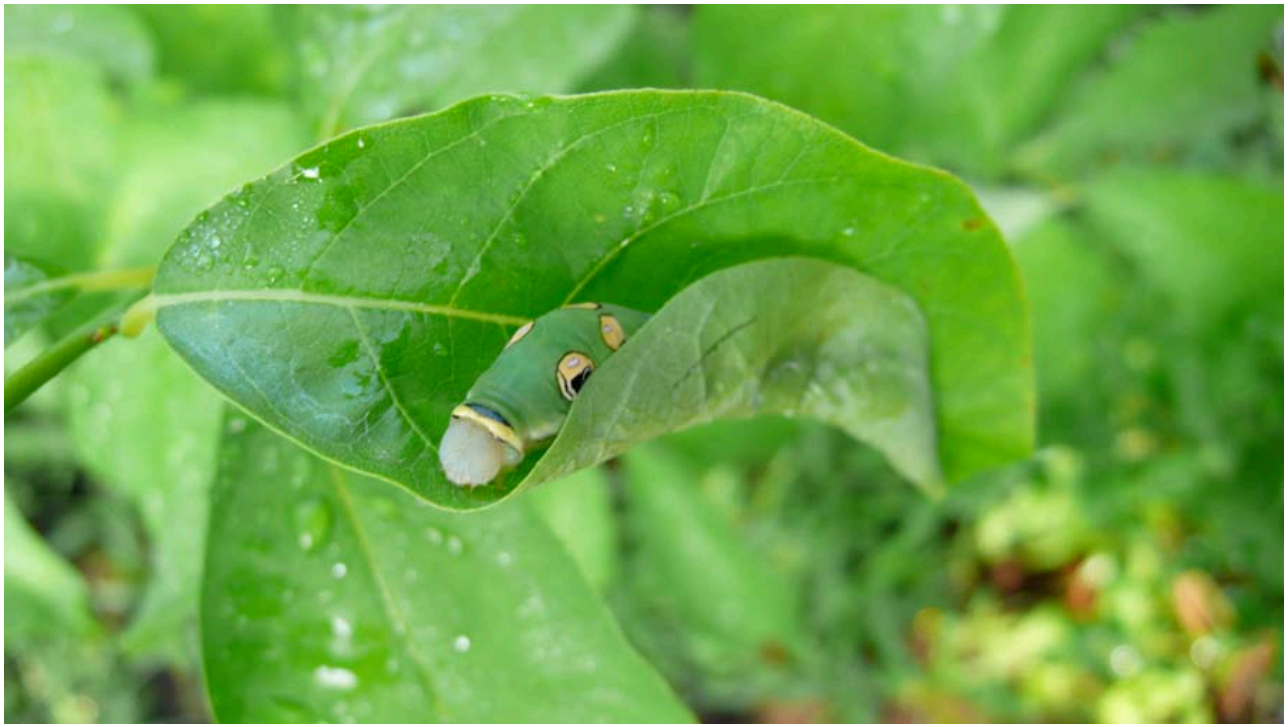
Poop is often easier to spot than caterpillars themselves.

Look for Ragged Edges



Caterpillars usually start at the edge of a leaf and eat in.
You can also look for shadows.

Look for Folded Leaves



Some caterpillars, like this Spicebush Swallowtail, hide in folded leaves.

Look for Folded Leaves



Some birds also know to look for folded leaves.

Be Careful!



Some caterpillars, like these saddlebacks, have nasty stings.

Watch out for Caterpillars on Walkabouts



If you see a caterpillar off a plant, it's probably on a "walkabout" to look for a good place to make a chrysalis or cocoon.

Transition



Gulf Fritillaries hang in a “J” before making a chrysalis.

Transition



Swallowtails secure their back feet. Then they make a string of silk, called a girdle, and lean back on it.

Spotting a Chrysalis



Gulf Fritillary chrysalises look like dead leaves.

Spotting a Chrysalis



Swallowtails hibernate in their chrysalises over the winter.

Spotting a Chrysalis





Caterpillars like to make their chrysalises underneath things.

Keep Your Eyes Open!



You never know what you'll find.