

# Common Butterflies and their Caterpillars



**Zebra Swallowtail** *Eurytides marcellus*

**Identification:** Wings are triangular shaped with black and white stripes. White color can sometimes have a green to bluish hue. Has a bright red strip on the lower hind wing.

**Host Plant:** Pawpaw (*Asimina sp.*)

**Notes:** Can have 3 or more broods a year. With each brood the length of the tails increase. Its host plant is not easily grown and therefore not easily obtained for planting in butterfly gardens.

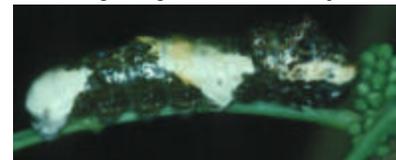


**Giant Swallowtail** *Papilio cresphontes*

**Identification:** The underside is cream-colored and has a blue band on the hindwing. The top is brown-black with a horizontal yellow band across the wings forming an "X" at the apex.

**Host Plant:** Citrus Family

**Notes:** Because this caterpillars eats citrus, citrus growers call it the "orange dog". This butterfly is found throughout Florida.



**Black Swallowtail** *Papilio polyxens*

**Identification:** Males above are similar to the Palamedes Swallowtail with a dominant yellow band but have dots rather than stripes on the body. The female above (left) has blue in the hindwing.

**Host Plant:** Members of the Carrot Family, such as Parsley, Fennel and Dill.

**Notes:** Thought of as a pest by some gardeners because it eats the leaves of many herbs.



Butterflies through Binoculars: A Field, Finding and Gardening Guide to Butterflies in Florida, by Jeffrey Glassberg, Marc Minno and John Calhoun was used as a reference for the text in this document. All photos taken by Alana Edwards.

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## Great Southern White *Ascia monuste*

**Identification:** The most distinguishing characteristic of this butterfly is its turquoise blue antennal clubs. Females vary in color from white to charcoal gray.

**Host Plant:** Members of the Mustard Family, such as Pepper Grass and Arugula.

**Notes:** This butterfly is known to have huge population explosions and can be found migrating along the coast and main highways where peppergrass is grown in abundance.



## Orange-Barred Sulphur *Phoebis philea*

**Identification:** Differs from the Cloudless Sulphur in that they are more yellow-orange. Males have large orange patches on the upper fore- and hindwings which are only seen in flight

**Host Plant:** Species of *Cassia* and *Senna*, Especially *Senna ligustrina* and *Senna mexicana*.



## Cloudless Sulphur

## *Phoebis sennae*

**Identification:** Similar to the Orange-barred Sulphur. Usually more lemony yellow in color but can sometimes be greenish-yellow.

**Host Plant:** Species of *Cassia*, *Senna*, and *Chaemecrista*. Especially *Chaemecrista fasciculata*, *Senna ligustrina* and *Senna mexicana*.



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	<p><b>Cassius Blue</b>      <i>Leptotes cassius</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> This blue can be distinguished from other blues in Florida by the white background with zebra striping. Females are a pale bluish-white on top and males are a bluish-violet on top.</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Members of the Bean and Plumbago Families, especially <i>Plumbago auriculata</i> and <i>Plumbago scandens</i>.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> This is one of the easiest butterflies to attract to a garden.</p>	
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	<p><b>Zebra</b>      <i>Heliconius charitonius</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> Has long wings which are black with yellow stripes.</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Most members of the Passionvine Family, especially <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> The zebra is Florida's State butterfly and can live longer than many species of butterflies because of its ability to ingest pollen.</p>	
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	<p><b>Gulf Fritillary</b>      <i>Agraulis vanillae</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> Red-orange above with black-ringed white spots on the forewings. Underside has bold silver spots.</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Most members of the Passionvine Family, especially <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>.</p>	
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	<p><b>White Peacock</b>      <i>Anartia jatropha</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> A silvery-white butterfly with an orange border. Very easy to identify.</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Water Hyssop (<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>)</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Looks white in flight and will “bounce” in flight while chasing a mate.</p> 
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	<p><b>Monarch</b>      <i>Danaus plexippus</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> Large bright-orange butterfly with a strong flight. Males have black scent glands (seen left).</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Members of the Milkweed Family, especially <i>Asclepias currisavica</i>.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> This butterfly is famous for its incredible two-way migration that it makes every year northern U. S. to Mexico.</p> 
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	<p><b>Queen</b>      <i>Danaus gilippus</i></p> <p><b>Identification:</b> Darker and smaller than the monarch. Color is a rich mahogany brown.</p> <p><b>Host Plant:</b> Members of the Milkweed Family, especially <i>Asclepias currisavica</i> and <i>Sarcostemma clausum</i>.</p>	
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