

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.



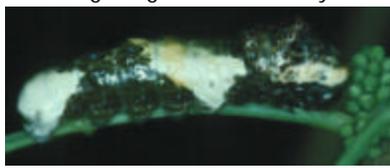


Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes*

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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Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius*

Identification: 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.

Host Plant: Members of the Bean and Plumbago Families, especially *Plumbago auriculata* and *Plumbago scandens*.

Notes: This is one of the easiest butterflies to attract to a garden.





Zebra *Heliconius charitonius*

Identification: Has long wings which are black with yellow stripes.

Host Plant: Most members of the Passionvine Family, especially *Passiflora suberosa*.

Notes: The zebra is Florida's State butterfly and can live longer than many species of butterflies because of its ability to ingest pollen.





Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

Identification: Red-orange above with black-ringed white spots on the forewings. Underside has bold silver spots.

Host Plant: Most members of the Passionvine Family, especially *Passiflora suberosa*.



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	White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>
	Identification: A silvery-white butterfly with an orange border. Very easy to identify.
	Host Plant: Water Hyssop (<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>)
	Notes: Looks white in flight and will “bounce” in flight while chasing a mate.
	

	Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>
	Identification: Large bright-orange butterfly with a strong flight. Males have black scent glands (seen left).
	Host Plant: Members of the Milkweed Family, especially <i>Asclepias currisavica</i> .
	Notes: This butterfly is famous for its incredible two-way migration that it makes every year northern U. S. to Mexico.
	

	Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>
	Identification: Darker and smaller than the monarch. Color is a rich mahogany brown.
	Host Plant: Members of the Milkweed Family, especially <i>Asclepias currisavica</i> and <i>Sarcostemma clausum</i> .
	

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