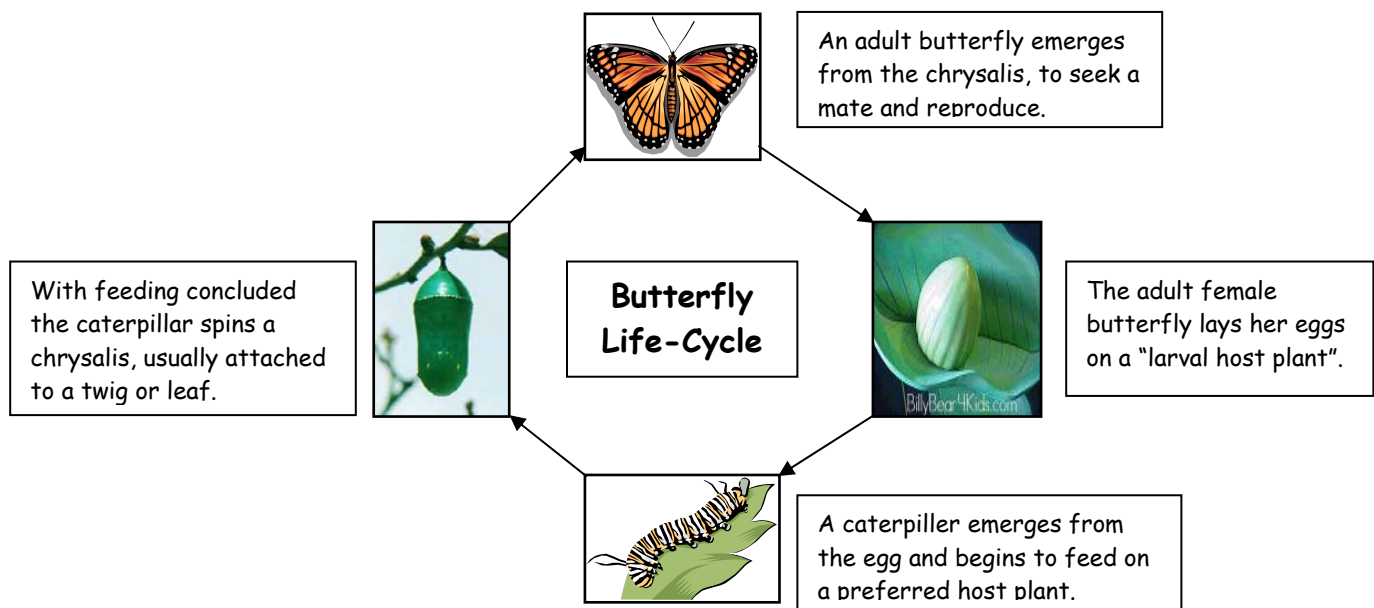




BUTTERFLY FACT SHEET

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES

What would a factsheet on butterflies be without a discussion and diagram of the metamorphosis process? Understanding the butterfly life cycle is essential to appreciate how unique and wondrous these winged harbingers of spring truly are.



Understanding the butterfly life-cycle is important to butterfly conservation as it reveals the importance of varied yet specific habitats connected to a phase of the butterfly's life-cycle. These habitats, from flowers for adult butterflies, to trees, shrubs or grasses for the larvae to feed on, are all required for butterflies to successfully complete their life cycle, and none is more important than the other.

Native trees, shrubs, and plants that are necessary for butterfly survival can be included in any landscaping plan. Know the plant requirements for NJ's butterflies, include them in your planting plans, and enjoy the beauty that these special visitors can bring to your yard.

Butterflies Native to New Jersey



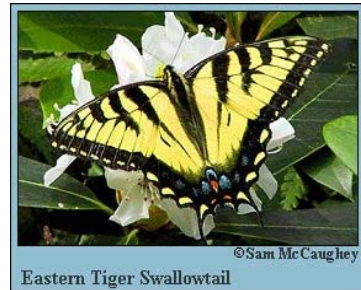
Mourning Cloak

©Cm

The **Mourning Cloak**, *Nymphalis antiopa*, has a wingspan of $2\frac{1}{4}$ -4 inches and rarely nectars on flowers as an adult. This butterfly prefers tree sap and especially the sap of oaks. It can be found clinging upside down on the bark of forest trees as it feeds. Larval host plants include Hackberry, willows, and American elm. This is the only native butterfly that will over-winter in New Jersey as an adult. If you want to attract butterflies with those trendy butterfly "houses" seen in gardening magazines this

is the only one that will use it. Plant larval host trees in addition to the butterfly houses to increase your chance of success and don't forget to place slabs of bark inside the butterfly house!

The **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**, *Papilio glaucus*, is a common yet striking native butterfly with a wingspan of $3\frac{5}{8}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The male is yellow with dark tiger-like stripes but the female has two forms: one yellow like the male and the other black with dark stripes. The adults will nectar on the flowers of various plants such as cherry and old-fashioned lilac. Larval host plants include cherry, basswood, tuliptree, birch and ash.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

©Sam McCaughey



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Monarchs ready to emerge.

The **Monarch**, *Danaus plexippus*, is New Jersey's most recognizable native butterfly. This butterfly can be seen during late summer all over Cape May County as it passes by on its annual migration to wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. Adult Monarchs nectar on milkweeds, thistle, lilac, red clover and goldenrod. Larval host plants are a variety of milkweeds, which contain cardiac poisons that are stored in the bodies of both the caterpillar and the adults. These poisons are distasteful and harmful to

birds and other predators. This provides Monarchs with excellent protection as predators quickly learn to stay away from these distasteful beauties.

Gardening for Butterflies

When planning a garden to attract butterflies remember to include larval host plants to provide a food source for butterflies in the caterpillar (larval) stage of their life cycle. Providing food and habitat for both these phases of a butterfly's life cycle will increase the chances of seeing these enchanting harbingers of warm weather right in your own yard.

For More Butterfly Information on the web:

http://library.thinkquest.org/27968/a_butterfly_workaday_world.shtml

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm>

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/nj/toc.htm>

<http://www.thebutterflysite.com/>