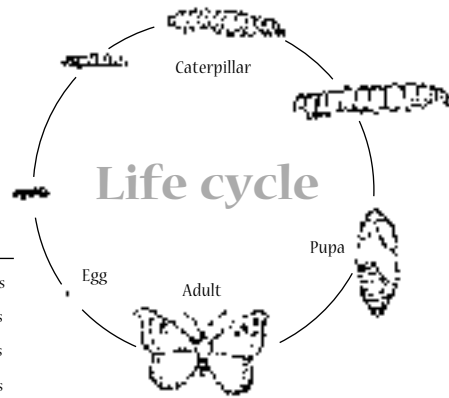




Butterflies of Texas L-5308



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Wingspans

Butterfly	Wingspan
Alfalfa Butterfly <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	1½ - 2¾ inches
American Painted Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	1¾ - 2⅝ inches
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	2½ - 4¼ inches
Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	1⅝ - 2¾ inches
Cabbage Butterfly <i>Pieris rapae</i>	1½ - 2¼ inches
Common Wood Nymph <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	1¾ - 3 inches
Giant Swallowtail <i>Heraclides cresphontes</i>	4 - 6¼ inches
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	7/8 - 1⅜ inches
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	2½ - 3¾ inches
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	3¾ - 4 7/8 inches
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	2¾ - 5 inches
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	2¼ - 3 inches
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	1¾ - 3 inches
Snout Butterfly <i>Libytheana bachmanii</i>	1⅜ - 2 inches
Viceroy <i>Basilarchia archippus</i>	2 ½ - 3 ⅜ inches
Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	2¾ - 4 inches

Facts

Did you know?

There are 15,000 to 17,000 butterfly species in the world; 750 species live in the United States and more than 440 species have been reported from Texas. Most butterflies can live for more than a month, and some can live for 10 months. Microscopic, overlapping scales on butterfly wings give them their colors and patterns. Besides flowers, some butterflies visit dung, tree sap, rotting fruit and dead animals for minerals, bacteria and protein. They also visit wet soil (called 'mud puddling') for sodium and nitrogen. Caterpillars feed on leaves of specific plants for their development. Monarch butterflies migrate farther than any other Texas butterflies—traveling up to 3,000 miles from Canada to Mexico. Butterflies have 'taste buds' on their feet that sense sweet liquids. Most butterflies are day fliers and have clubs on the ends of their antennae; most moths are night fliers and have hairlike or feathery antennae. Butterflies are cold-blooded and must warm their bodies before they can fly. They do this by basking in the sun and by beating their wings.

Flowers

Plants that attract adult butterflies

- Bee-bush
- Blue mist flower
- Butterfly bush
- Butterfly weed
- Common paintbrush
- Lantana
- Mexican mint marigold
- Milkweed
- Plumbago
- Scarlet sage
- Verbena
- White mist flower
- Many others

Center butterfly is a Two-Tailed Swallowtail, *Pierourus multicaudatus*.

Butterfly photos courtesy of Nancy Greig, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Cockrell Butterfly Center;

Bart Drees and Jerrold Summerlin, Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Larva photo of Cabbage Butterfly by Garland McIlveen.

Larva photos of American Painted Lady, Pipevine Swallowtail, Question Mark, Snout Butterfly, Buckeye and Viceroy by John and Gloria Tveten.

Scientific names are from *A Field Guide to Butterflies of Texas* by Raymond W. Neck (1996, Gulf Publishing Co.).

Produced by Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M University System, with technical assistance from John A. Jackman, Extension Entomologist.

For more information on insects, check the Web at: <http://insects.tamu.edu>

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ISBN 0-9672990-4-7



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Top Wheel



Butterflies
of
Texas

cut out