



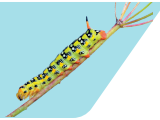
SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY



Scientific family: Papilionidae

Description: There are many species of swallowtail butterfly, a group named for the tail-like extensions of their hindwings (although some species are "tailless"). Coloring and patterns differ between species and also between males and females. Most have some combination of yellow, blue, black, or red coloration on their wings. These butterflies can also be quite large; the giant swallowtail can have a wingspan of up to 7" and is the largest butterfly in North America!

FUN FACTS



- There are over 550 species of swallowtails. They're found on every continent except Antarctica, with 30 species native to North America.
- Adults feed on flower nectar; they also sip from mud puddles to get vital minerals.
- Certain species of swallowtail practice Batesian mimicry; their appearance can closely resemble other butterfly species that predators find distasteful.
- Some swallowtail caterpillars eat plants that contain toxic defense chemicals and integrate these compounds into their bodies to prevent being eaten.
- When threatened, swallowtail caterpillars emit a repellant smell from their scent gland to keep predators away.
- The life span of most swallowtail butterflies ranges from 6 days to 6 weeks, depending on the species.



FAVORITE PLANTS & COLORS

The caterpillars of different swallowtail species eat plants exclusively from one of the following 5 families: birthwort, custard apple, laurel, carrot, and citrus.

For example, the main host plant of the eastern black swallowtail (the most common species in North America) caterpillar is Queen Anne's lace. However, they also eat plants in the same family including carrots, dill, fennel, and parsley.

Adult swallowtails of all species have similar tastes. They prefer to feed on nectar-rich plants such as coneflowers, butterfly weed, zinnias, sages, lantana, Mexican sunflower, and more.

Like most butterflies, they prefer flowers that are white, pink, orange, yellow, red, or purple.



HABITAT

The greatest diversity of swallowtails is found in subtropical and tropical regions, especially in East and Southeast Asia. Various species inhabit altitudes from sea level to high mountains. Swallowtails can be found near food sources, including gardens, fields, meadows, forests, and stream banks.



HELP SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES THRIVE



Create a swallowtail butterfly habitat in your garden by:

- Cultivating host plants that are preferred by the swallowtail caterpillar species in your area.
- Plant a wide variety of perennial and annual nectar-rich flowers in your garden for the butterflies to feed on.
- Preserve existing trees and plant new ones to provide the butterflies with nighttime roosts.



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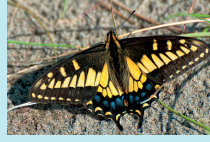
5 SWALLOW TAIL SPECIES



BLACK



PIPEVINE



ANISE



ZEBRA



DRAGON

Swallowtail Butterfly Life Cycle 4 stages of metamorphosis

