

Pest Profile

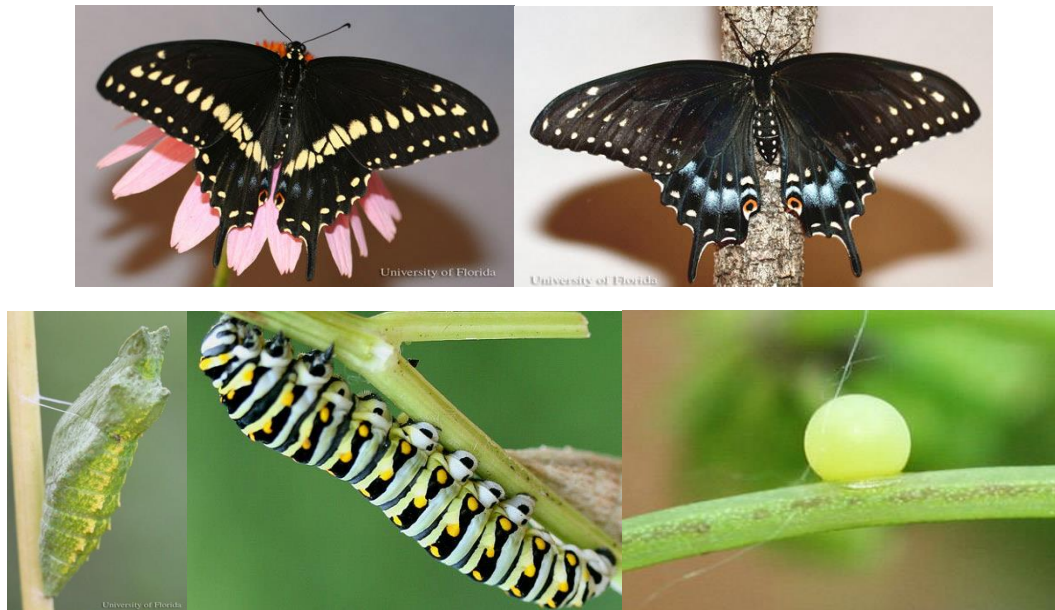


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Common Names: Eastern Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Synonyms: American swallowtail, Parsley worm, Celery worm, Black swallowtail, Caraway worm, and Parsnip swallowtail

Scientific Name: *Papilio polyxenes asterius* (Stoll)

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Papilionidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1mm	Spherical, pale yellow and laid singly on host plant, darkening with development.
Larva/Nymph	2mm – 50mm	Green with black stripes or bands in the middle of each segment. Five longitudinal rows of yellowish to orange spots interrupt the black bands. When disturbed, the caterpillars are able to evert a pair of fleshy horn glands (osmeteria) from the head that emit odors that are distasteful to predators.
Adult	76mm – 115mm wingspan	Shiny black with two rows of yellow spots on the upper surface of the fore and hind wings. The spots on the male's wings are large and bright while the female's spots will be lighter and smaller in size. Female hind wings also have an iridescent blue area between the rows of spots.
Pupa (if applicable)		Greenish, darkening to brown or grey. Pupal stage of first generation lasts about 18 days. Second generation pupa form a chrysalis and overwinter in protected areas.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The larvae have chewing mouth parts.

Host plants: Parsley, dill, sweet fennel, celery, caraway, and sometimes carrot and Queen Anne's lace.

Description of damage (larvae and adults): The caterpillars are doing the damage by chewing on the leaves and are also known to clip the flower heads as well as eating the developing seeds. The adult stage feeds on nectar and is not damaging.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Hall, D. W. (2014). *Eastern Black Swallowtail, Papilio polyxenes asterius (Stoll) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Papilionidae)*. Florida: University of Florida, IFAS Extension. (Pub# EENY-504).

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