

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** (Left) Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University, Bugwood.org; (Right) Phil Sloderbeck, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Parsleyworm/Black Swallowtail

**Scientific Name:** *Papilio polyxenes*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera, Papilionidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		The eggs are a pale yellow and spherical in shape.
<b>Larva</b>		The mature caterpillar is white to bright green in color, with black bands punctuated with yellow or reddish-orange spots. When disturbed, the larvae can evert a pair of bright orange, fleshy “horns” (osmeteria) from behind the head, which can release a foul odor. Young larvae are mostly black with a white saddle and look like bird-droppings.
<b>Adult</b>	Wingspan: 67-89 mm	The adults are primarily colored shiny black above with rows of yellow spots, which are reduced in females. The hindwings have a blue patch which is more extensive on females. The hindwings also have a red eyespot on top, and the underside has an orange eyespot. Also, the underside of the hindwings contains two rows of orange spots in the middle and back edge. The antennae are threadlike.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		The chrysalis is green in color with yellow markings. A brown color morph can occur in overwintering populations or if the pupation substrate is brown. The pupa is attached to a leaf or twig by a hooked process known as a cremaster, but it is held somewhat in an upright position. A silken girdle attached to the substrate and somewhere in the middle of the body holds the chrysalis in place. The pupa is obtect, meaning that the appendages are firmly attached to body.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** The larvae have chewing mouthparts.

**Host/s:** The larvae feeds primarily on dill, parsley, and fennel. They rarely feed on carrot, Queen Anne's lace and other plants in the Apiaceae family.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** The larvae primarily chew on leaves, can clip flower heads, and feed on developing seeds.

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