

Sometime we attract butterflies to our garden and then unintentionally destroy the young they have left behind. If you have caterpillar host plants in your garden, as seasons change and clean up begins, you should consider how a butterfly gets through the winter - as an egg, larvae, pupa, adult or migrant to warmer climes. This list will make you think before you rake up all that leaf litter and trim all those dead branches that look so unruly in your garden.

Butterflies That Hibernate In Winter As Caterpillars



- ◆ Pearl Crescent - host plant/Asters *Hibernates as half grown caterpillar by sticking several leaves together to form a nest on branches of Aster plant. **Do not cut back Asters***
- ◆ Red Spotted Purple - host plant/willow, poplar, cherry, serviceberry *Hibernates as half grown caterpillar in silk tent attached to a twig. **Postpone pruning until mid spring.***
- ◆ Great Spangled Fritillary - host plant/violets *Hibernates as small unfed caterpillar at base of the violet. **Do not rake up leaf litter.***

Butterflies That Hibernate In Winter As Chrysalis

- ◆ Eastern Tiger Swallowtail – host plant/cherry, ash, yellow poplar *Pupates in leaf litter on fences or tree trunks close to host tree. **Do not rake up ground litter within 20' of host tree until nectar plants bloom.***
- ◆ Pipevine Swallowtail - host plant/Pipevine *Caterpillars travel short distance to pupate and attach to tree trunks, rocks and woody branches. **Do not prune large shrubs near host plants until nectar plants bloom.***
- ◆ Spicebush Swallowtail - host plant/ Spicebush and Sassafras *Produces several broods and some from each overwinter as chrysalis. Caterpillars wander up to 20' away and pupate on slender stems near ground level. **Do not do thorough clean up around host plants.***



Butterflies That Hibernate As Adults

- ◆ Red Admiral – host plant/members of nettle family *Hibernates in crevice of tree trunk to stay dry during winter.*
- ◆ Mourning Cloak – host plant/willows, elms, hackberry, birch *Hibernates in crevice in tree trunk to stay dry during winter. One of the first butterflies you see in spring.*



Butterflies That Migrate South For Winter

- ◆ Cloudless Giant Sulphur, Buckeye, Monarch, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Painted Lady

TAKE HOME MESSAGE - Less yard clean up is a good thing for butterflies. You can make your yard and garden more butterfly friendly by leaving some wild areas and not being so compulsively tidy.