

Regal Fritillary Butterfly LIFE CYCLE

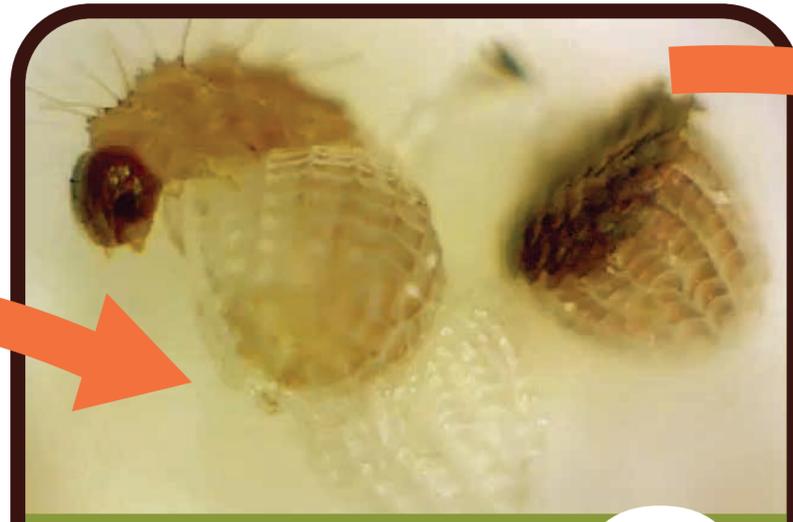
Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) native to the Midwest including Iowa.



1

In the fall, females lay eggs in the tall grass prairie near their host plants, which are various types of violets.

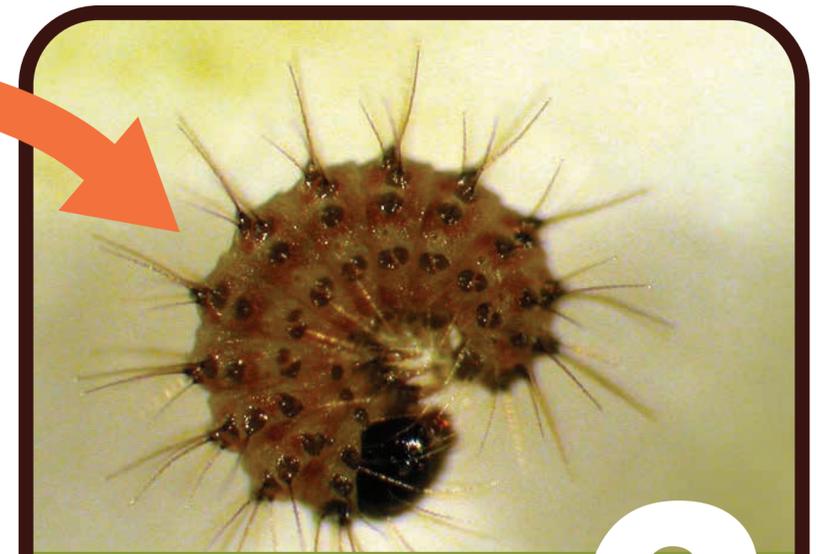
Photo by Richard Stilwell



2

The violets have already died back for winter & must be found via a chemical compound left by the violets.

Image Capture of Video by Doug Taron



3

Eggs hatch in late fall. First instar caterpillars eat their eggs & nothing else until spring.

Photo by Nathan Brockman



6

Adults emerge in early summer. After mating, females go into summer dormancy until fall & then lay their eggs.

Photo by Doug Taron



5

The caterpillars molt forming their pupae where they'll stay for 15 days.

Photo by Doug Taron



4

In early spring caterpillars eat the violet leaves & goes through 6 instars, not the normal 5 like other butterflies.

Photo by Doug Taron