Great Southern White

Ascia monuste



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Great Southern White

Ascia monuste

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Pierides

Etymology: The genus *Ascia* is Latin for carpenter's adze or ax. The origin of the specie *monuste* is currently unknown.

Wingspan: 2.25 – 2.75 inches (55 – 70 mm)

Habitat: The Great Southern White is most commonly found in coastal dunes, salt marshes, open fields and they will also visit gardens in the surrounding areas.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on a wide variety of plants in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) and the caper family (Capparidaceae).

Adult Food Source: Adults are known to feed from a variety of flowers such as verbena and lantana. Males are also known to puddle.

Life History: Males patrol for females. After mating the female lays her eggs on the upper surface of the host leaves in clusters as large as 60. The larvae devour just about every part of the host plant including stems and seedpods.

Flights: There are multiple generations each year so it is possible to find adults year round within their range.

Fun Facts: On occasion the Great Southern Whites in certain regions are known to make impressive emigrations into areas which are not considered to be a good habitat. It is believed they make this migration due population explosions and the limited amount of host plant available.

Range:

