Silver-Spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Silver-Spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Hesperiidae

Etymology: The origin of the genus *Epargyreus* is currently unknown while the specie *clarus* is Latin for clear.

Wingspan: 1.75 – 2.5 inches (45 – 65 mm)

Habitat: The Silver-Spotted Skipper can be found in open woods, along roadsides and in urban neighborhoods.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on black locust, honey locust, false indigo and Wisteria.

Adult Food Source: The adults will feed from a variety of flowers such as common milkweed, red clover thistles and zinnias. The adults are also known to puddle especially the males.

Life History: Males perch on vegetation waiting for females to pass through their territory to find a mate. After mating the female lays her eggs singly on the host plant. The early instar caterpillars fold over a piece of the host plant to make shelter. Over wintering it is done as a chrysalis.

Flights: In the northern part of their range there is only a single brood while in the southern regions they can have up to four broods.

Fun Facts: The family Hesperiidae, other wise known as the Skippers, are sometimes considered to be a distinct group when compared to true butterflies. One difference between the true butterflies and the skippers can be seen in their antenna. In true butterflies the antenna is straight with a club at the end while in skipper the tip of their antenna is curved.

Range:

