Common Sailor

Neptis hylas



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Common Sailor

Neptis hylas

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The genus *Neptis* is Latin for granddaughter. *Hylas*, in Greek mythology, was the son of King Theiodamas.

Wing span: - 1.8 - 2.3 inches (45 - 55 mm)

Habitat: The Common Sailor can be seen in many habitats but they seem to prefer forested areas and are usually noticed flying along the forest edge.

Host Plant: The larvae have a large list of host plants in the families Leguminosae, Malvaceae, Tiliaceae, Sterculiaceae and Oleaceae.

Adult Food Source: The adults are known to feed on spoiled fruits as well as a wide variety of nectar plants.

Life History: Mated females go from host plant to host plant laying one egg per plant. As the larva feed on the host plant it takes small pieces of the plant and attaches it to silk forming a protective tent.

Flights: There are multiple broods each year, this makes it possible to find the Common Sailor all year round in the warm parts of their range.

Fun Facts: The Common Sailor has a very interesting flight pattern. They have a very low body weight to wing ratio. This allows the Common Sailor to take a couple wing-beats, and then glide (or sail) a good distance, until it needs to take a couple more wing beats.

Range:

