# Aphrodite fritillary Speyeria aphrodite

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda Class: Insecta Order: Lepidoptera Family: Nymphalidae

### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

### FEATURES

The Aphrodite fritillary has a wingspan of two and one-half to three and one-half inches. The female is larger than the male. The upperside of the wings is orange with black marks, and most individuals have a black mark in the plain section near the base of the forewing. The underside of the hindwing is redbrown and may have a light brown band between the two rows of silver spots at the edge of the wing. The larva is generally black with a small orange spot on the head.

### **BEHAVIORS**

This species can be found in a variety of open habitats. Adults feed on nectar. Larvae eat violet plants. The female lays an egg on or near violet plants in late summer. The caterpillar hatches, finds a place to shelter and then becomes inactive until spring. Adults are active from the middle of June through early September. Mature larvae are seen in late May and June.

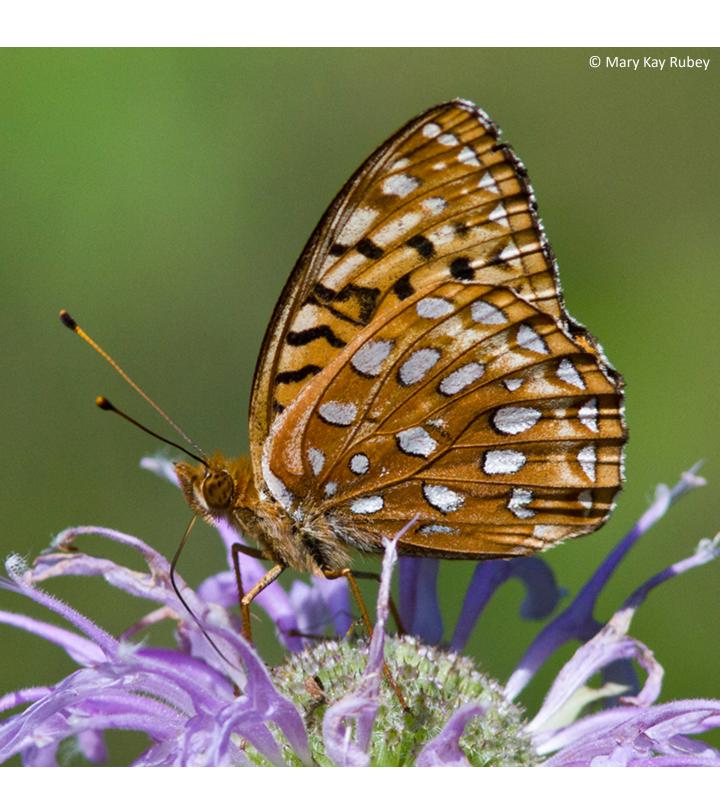
### **ILLINOIS RANGE**



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## **Aquatic Habitats**

none

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

# **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie