

Gulf fritillary

Agraulis vanillae

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The Gulf fritillary has a wingspan of two and one-half to three and three-fourths inches. Its color patterns are similar in the male and female although the male's coloration is brighter. The upperside of the wings is orange with dark marks. There are usually three black-encircled white spots near the front edge of the forewings, but the number of them may vary. The underside of the wings is brown-orange with silver spots that are more or less oval in shape and black spots that have a silver center.

BEHAVIORS

The Gulf fritillary lives in woodland edges where passion-flower (*Passiflora spp.*), its larval host plant, grows. A few individuals are seen annually in the state, and it may breed here, but Illinois is on the northern edge of its range.

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge