regal fritillary

FEATURES

Speyeria idalia

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera Family: Nymphalidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

threatened, native

It live

The regal fritillary is a threatened species in Illinois. It lives in sand prairies, tallgrass prairies, savannas, dunes and other wet areas associated with sand. The larvae eats violet leaves (*Viola spp.*). Adults obtain nectar from a variety of flowers. They are active from May through September. One generation is produced per year. The species overwinters in the larval stage.

The wingspan of this species is from two and threefourths to four and one-fourth inches. The upperside

of the forewing is red-orange with black markings,

white spots along the black edge. The upper surface of the hindwing is a darker color than that of the

forewing and has two rows of spots. These spots are

forewings is orange with dark markings and also has a row of white spots in the black border along the edge of the wing. The hindwing is covered with

all an ivory shade in the female. In the male, the inner row of spots is ivory while the spots in the outer row are orange. The underside of the

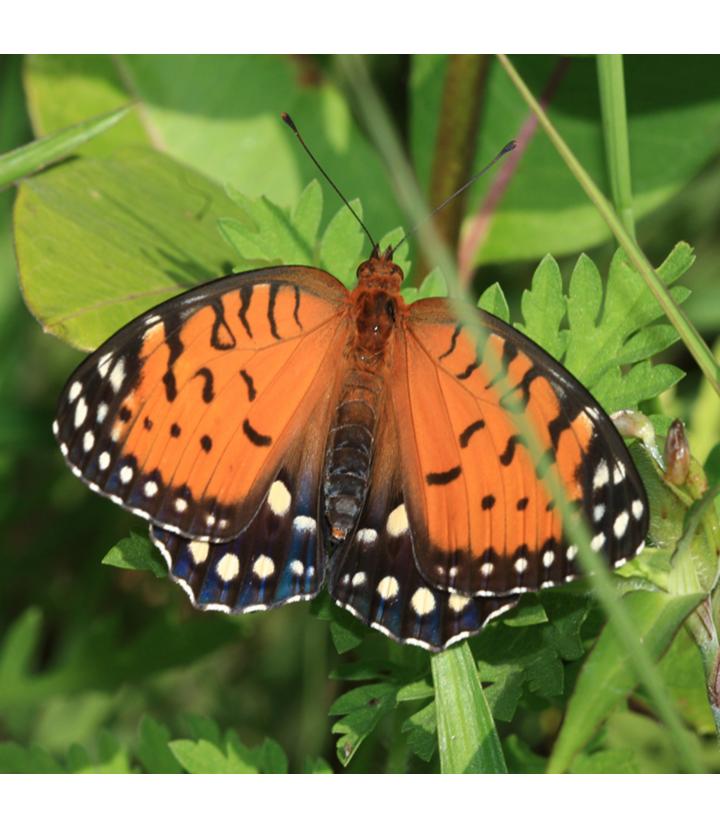
many white bars and spots.

BEHAVIORS

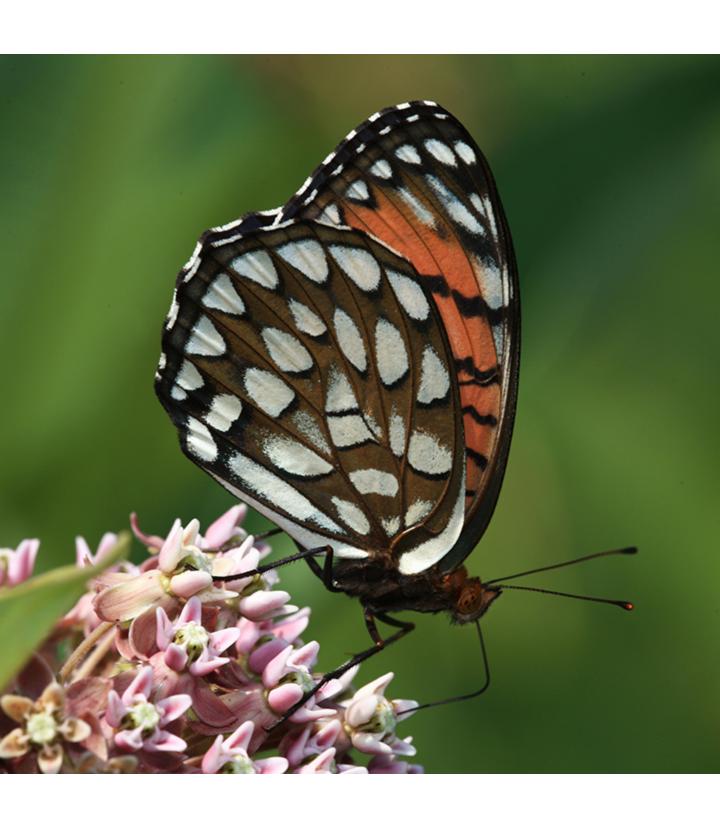
and the upperside of the female's forewing has

ILLINOIS RANGE









Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

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