

Eclosion and Release

When they eclose, they need to hang to inflate their wings and allow them to harden in the right shape. Do not disturb them when their wings are wet. It will take several hours before they might be dry enough for the butterfly to attempt to fly.

Your butterfly needs to eat within a day after eclosion. There are numerous options for feeding butterflies. Blinque's creates our own artificial nectar using a recipe available in our blog section of the website. Cut fruit can also be offered.

Adult Black Swallowtails live for a couple weeks to a little over a month, with females typically living longer. It's important to release your butterfly during a warm, sunny day. The temperature needs to be above 60°F or it will be too cold for them to fly. They will warm themselves in the sun to reach the proper body temperature for them to fly.



Disease Prevention

There are numerous diseases that caterpillars could develop. The best way to prevent this is to feed them safe food, remove old food before it can mold, and clean their frass at least daily. Sick caterpillars might change color, move strangely, or become very weak. If you suspect your caterpillar is ill, document the symptoms and contact us. The more information and images provided to us, the more likely we are to identify the problem.

Reminders on Feeding Caterpillars:

- Younger caterpillars need younger, softer leaves.
- Rinse off plant material and pat it dry before giving it to caterpillars.
- Black Swallowtails will eat more and more as they grow.
- Check on them at least twice per day to be sure they still have food.
- Dried-out or withered plant material should be replaced.
- Be careful not to alarm the caterpillars, or they'll use their osmeterium to emit an odor



Contact Blinque's Butterfly Garden

- Email us at blinquesbutterflygarden@gmail.com
- Call or Text us at 513-426-6866
- Leave a Voicemail if we do not answer



Species Care Information

The Black Swallowtail Butterfly

How to raise Eastern Black Swallowtail butterflies at home

www.blinquesbutterflygarden.com