

Passionflower *Passiflora incarnata* (pass-iff-FLOR-uh in-kar-NAH-tuh)



In bloom



Fritillary Caterpillar, 9 days old on left finger for size reference, 14 days on the right



Red-banded Hairstreak



Variegated Fritillary

Photos by and grown by John Brandauer

Description: A native plant with edible fruit, interesting, stunning blooms a butterfly host and nectar source! Native Americans cultivated, and used the fruit, young shoots and greens for food; the juice was drunk and the roots used medicinally. Edible fruit, the size of a hens egg, are ripe after yellowing.

Other Names: Apricot Vine, Maypop, Purple Passion Flower, Passionflower, Passionvine, and Passion Vine

Type: Herbaceous Vine

Family: Passifloraceae

Life Cycle: Perennial

Native Status: Native Pennsylvania west to Kansas, south to Texas and Florida

Light Requirements: Full sun to light shade

Soil Preference: Prefers well-drained fertile soil, will grow in clay soil.

Care: Easy low maintenance, low to moderate water needs, but it does sucker. Suckers are easily removed, if desired, they may be transplanted or potted.

Growth Rate: Can be aggressive in the south, is not for us, we are near the limit of its northern range.

Blooms: Unique, intricate, 3" across, unique, not abundant, but long bloom period, mid summer to early fall which turn to fruit 2 – 3 months after blooming. Best performance with support to climb.

Size: Large, climbing vine or sprawling ground cover, 25 feet long

Natural habitat: Woodland edges, meadows, pastures, prairies and roadsides

Wildlife Benefits: Larval host for: Variegated Fritillary, Banded Hairstreak and Red-banded Hairstreak. Fruit eaten by birds, and edible by humans. Attracts bees and butterflies, as a source for pollen and nectar. Usually pollinated by carpenter bees.

Propagation Methods: Division, softwood cuttings, simple layering, sowing scarified seed

Commercial availability: Plants and seeds occasionally available

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Information compiled from the web, supplemented by our experiences.

<http://www.weedsforwildlife.com/> John and Susan Brandauer <mailto:jbrandauer@optonline.net>