

Gulf Fritillary

Gulf Fritillaries are very common and widespread in Alabama. Since they are not cold hardy, they must recolonize the state from more southerly locations each year and are typically not encountered until early summer. They become extremely common in the fall. Open, sunny habitats are preferred. Gulf Fritillaries are avid nectarers.



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- Sexes are similar, but there are subtle differences. Females are slightly larger, more heavily marked, and have blunter, less elongated wings.
- May be confused with Variegated Fritillaries and Monarchs. Gulf Fritillaries' silver-spotted ventral wings are distinctive. Dorsally, they are much brighter orange than Variegated Fritillaries. Gulf Frits have dark spots on ventral wings that Monarchs lack; they lack the heavy black veining that is typical of Monarchs.





Gulf Fritillary

Dorsal View

Three black-encircled white dots*

Elongated forewing with pointed apex

Black markings on bright orange wing color

Chain-like black markings

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

© Debbie Pezzillo

** Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 3¾ inches (6.3 - 9.5 cm)



Gulf Fritillary

Ventral View

Both wings have elongated, iridescent silver spots*

Brownish base color

Forewing pinkish-orange at base

Striped body

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

© Jerry Green

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 3¾ inches (6.3 - 9.5 cm)



Gulf Fritillary

Male/Female Dorsal Comparison

MALE: Forewing more elongated and pointed

FEMALE: Heavier black markings; wings less pointed

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

© Jerry Green

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 2½ - 3¾ inches (6.3 - 9.5 cm)



Gulf Fritillary

Male/Female Ventral Comparison

MALE: Smaller; wings more pointed

FEMALE: Larger; wings not as elongate

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

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Wingspan: 2½ - 3¾ inches (6.3 - 9.5 cm)

Similar Species

Gulf Fritillary Dorsal



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Variegated Fritillary Dorsal



© Sara Bright

Monarch Dorsal



© Sara Bright

Gulf Fritillary Ventral



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Variegated Fritillary Ventral



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Monarch Ventral



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