



## **Moth Eggs**



Moth eggs are oval or spherical and can be different colors with interesting designs. Some change shape and color as the embryo inside develops. They are very small and are laid in groups on specific host plants. Some eggs hatch after a few days or weeks, others hatch the following spring when their favorite food plants are available.



## **Moth Larva**



Tiny moth larvae called caterpillars hatch and eat as much as they can. Some eat leaves or lichens, some eat stems and roots, and a few eat animal hair and can damage clothes and carpets. Most are smooth and harmless, though a few moth caterpillars have spines and hairs that can sting or cause a rash if handled. Never handle a caterpillar with your bare hands unless you are sure it is a safe.



## **Moth Pupa**



Most moths spin silk cocoons around the pupa for protection. Some do not, they have naked pupa in a hard case or chrysalis that is protected underground or in loose bark. The cocoon is made of silk strands and may include a patchwork of soil and bits of leaves or bark. The caterpillar dissolves and is rebuilt into an adult moth inside the chrysalis.



## **Moth Imago**



Moths are nocturnal, so many have dull colors which help them avoid predators in low light. They are often covered in small hairs to help them stay warm on cool spring nights. Some are brightly colored and might be mistaken for butterflies. A few female adult moths do not have wings, so they stay in or very near their cocoons, waiting for male moths to find them to mate. Some moths only live a week, looking for a mate and a place to lay eggs to start the cycle over again.