

Habitat Avengers

Featured Native Plant: *Passiflora incarnata* (Purple Passion Flower)

There are so many attractive native plant species suitable for ornamental purposes while also providing resources for wildlife. One these plants is *Passiflora incarnata*...

Passiflora incarnata is known by many common names: Purple passionflower, Purple passion vine, Maypop, and Apricot vine. It is part of Passifloraceae, the Passion-Flower Family.

Passiflora incarnata is an herbaceous vine, up to 25 ft. long, that climbs with axillary tendrils or sprawls along the ground. Intricate, 3 inch, lavender flowers are short-stalked from leaf axils. This unusual flower is widely distributed in the Southeast, especially from Florida to Texas. The plants were given the name Passionflower or Passion vine because the floral parts were once said to represent aspects of the Christian crucifixion story, sometimes referred to as the Passion. The name Maypop comes from the hollow, yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed. The fruit is a large, orange-yellow berry with edible pulp.



Variegated Fritillary caterpillar



Gulf Fritillary caterpillar



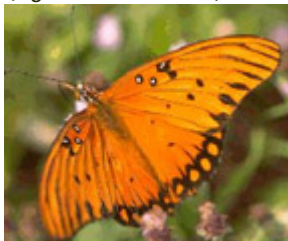
Passiflora incarnata has showy flowers and can be an interesting addition to the ornamental landscape. It can be used as ground cover or on an arbor; it twines on fences and other plants, and can climb walls and columns. It is deciduous and will die back each year, so maintenance may be needed. Like

some other passion vines, Maypop spreads by root suckers. For this reason a little planning in the ornamental landscape is in order. This species may need a special place where spreading out and climbing is preferred.

Passiflora incarnata fruits are eaten by birds and mammals. The plant is moderately deer resistant. The flowers are a highly attractive nectar and pollen source for beneficial insects including butterflies and bees. During the fall, several butterfly species can be observed laying eggs on the foliage. Look

for Fritillary caterpillars to be munching around September. Passion vine is a larval host to: Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Zebra Longwing, Banded hairstreak, and Red-banded hairstreak.

Gulf Fritillary
(*Agraulis vanillae*)



Variegated Fritillary
(*Euptoieta claudia*)



Banded Hairstreak
(*Satyrium calanus*)



Red-banded Hairstreak
(*Calycopis cecrops*)



Information from Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center
(http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PAIN6)

See also: <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/> and <http://www.se-eppc.org/>

