

Peacock Butterfly

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Peacock Butterfly
Irish Name: Péacóg
Scientific Name: Inachis io

Seen in Ireland:

Flight Period:
April to June and
Late July to September



The wingspan is 62-70mm.



Gardens, school grounds, woodlands and hedgerow. It hibernates through the winter.

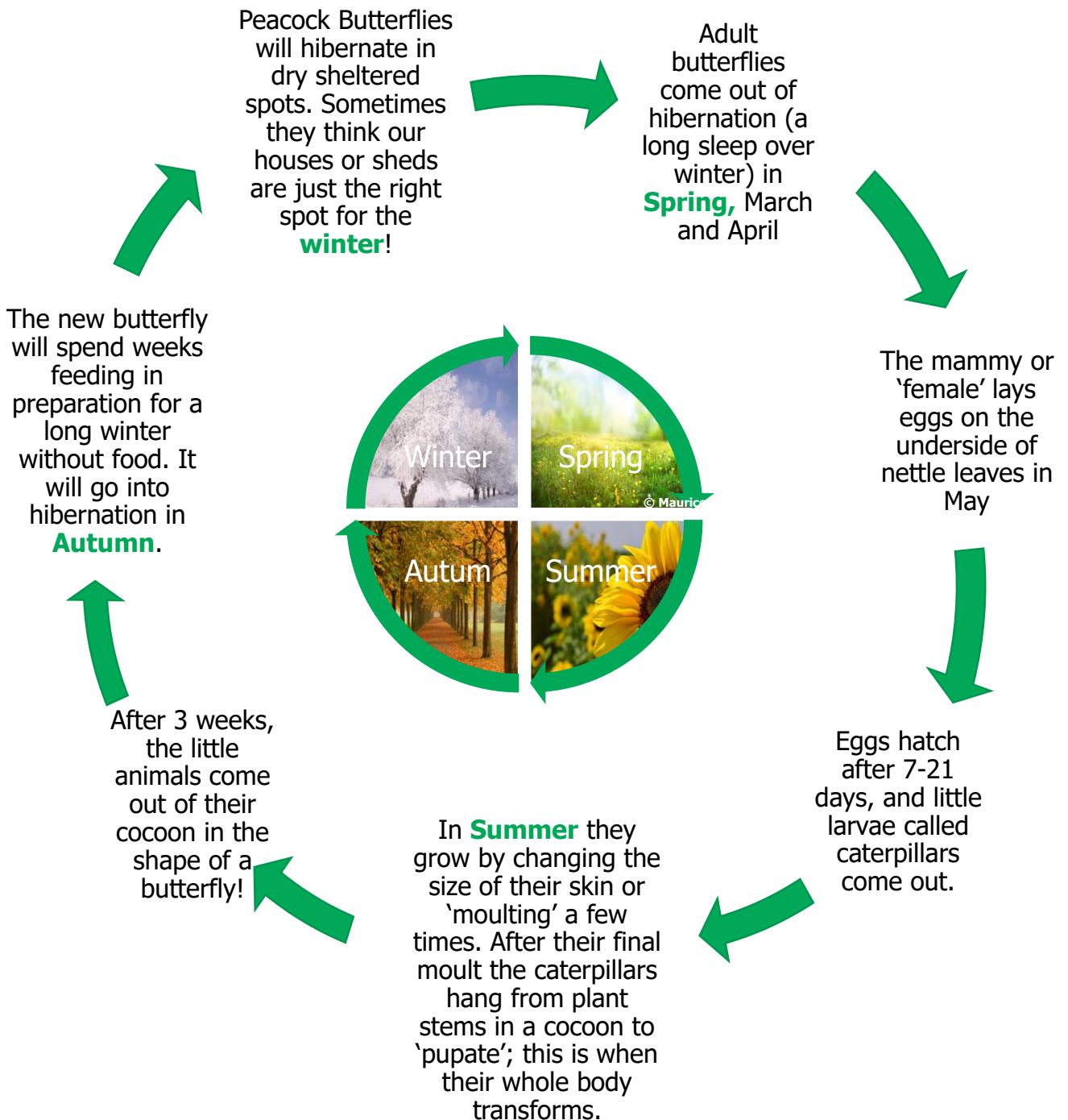


Adults: feed on nectar from flowers including thistle, bluebell, cuckooflower, dandelion and teasel. Buddleia is a particular favourite for peacock butterflies. Caterpillars: eat the leaves of stinging nettles and hops.



Peacock butterflies can live for up to 11 months..

Peacock Butterfly Life Cycle



Peacock Butterfly

Some more Facts:

- The open wings are mainly a rusty red colour and have dramatic eyespots in blue pink and cream.
- The underside of the wings is a very dark brown all over.
- The colourful eye-spots on the wings look like the marks on a peacock bird's feathers, and this is where this butterfly gets its name.
- **Metamorphosis** is the name given to how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly or moth.
- There are four stages in the metamorphosis of butterflies: **egg**, **larva**, **pupa**, and **adult**. Adult butterflies lay the eggs
- The young that come out of the eggs are called '**Larva**', in this case they are caterpillars.
- After a large feed the caterpillars are ready to **pupate**, it stops eating and finds a twig, leaf or branch to hang upside down from.
- After this, they spin a cocoon to sleep in where the pupa transforms into a butterfly.

