

**WANTED**  
**ALIVE IN YOUR GARDEN**  
 Text and Photos by Mary Anne Borge

**Cloudless Sulphur Caterpillar**

**Known Food Preferences:** Cloudless Sulphur caterpillars eat the foliage, flowers, and seedpods of a variety of plants in the Pea Family, such as American Senna, Maryland Senna, Partridge Pea, Sensitive Partridge Pea, Java-bean, and Woolly Senna.



**Known disguises:** Cloudless Sulphur caterpillars rely on blending in with their surroundings for protection. In general, caterpillars that feed primarily on the yellow flowers of their food plant are yellow colored, while caterpillars that eat foliage are green. Both the yellow and green forms of the Cloudless Sulphur caterpillar have spots, lines, and dots on their bodies that help provide further camouflage among the leaves and flowers of their host plant.

**Hideouts:** In addition to their disguises, Cloudless Sulphurs can spin silk to make a shelter from one or more leaves.

**If capture is avoided:** After the caterpillar forms its striking, humpbacked chrysalis, metamorphosis continues, with multiple broods in the southern part of its range, fewer in the north. Cloudless Sulphurs can be found in gardens and disturbed open spaces in all of the southern United States. Additionally, some Cloudless Sulphurs fly north each fall—an activity that over time may result in a range expansion for the species. Currently, however, these butterflies are not thought to be able to survive the winter farther north than the Carolinas. In order to avoid freezing temperatures, millions of Clouded Sulphurs fly southward each fall to frost-free areas where they overwinter as adults in reproductive diapause.



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