

# Phaon Crescent



*Phyciodes phaon*



© B. Bouton

## Host Plants

Matchweed

*Phyla nodiflora*

**Fun fact:**  
There are records of **Phaon Crescent** butterflies displaying wing pattern coloration that differs from the normal pattern. These can be genetically or environmentally induced and are called aberrations.



© B. Nall

## Biology

The **Phaon Crescent** is a small butterfly, with a wingspan of about one inch. It is commonly found in upland habitats, pastures, and moist open areas throughout the United States, as far north as Iowa and Nebraska. Females lay clusters of greenish eggs on the underside of leaves. The gregarious larvae make silk nests, bear sharp short spines and vary in color from olive green to brown with light and dark bands. The **Phaon Crescent** is chemically protected by iridoid glycosides. Its bright colors, deliberately slow flight and display behavior are meant to instill in predators the unpleasant memories associated with the taste. In Florida, the **Phaon Crescent** undergoes at least three reproductive cycles per year.



© B. Nall

For more information scan the QR code or visit <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/index.php>