

Butterflies of Kootenai & Spokane County

University of Idaho
Extension
Kootenai County
1250 W Ironwood, Ste 107
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Phone: (208) 292-2525
Plant Clinic: (208)292-1377
E-mail: kootenaimg@uidaho.edu
Web: uidaho.edu/kootenai



Adapted from Oregon State University Extension Booklet EC 1549 compiled by Mary V., former Idaho Master Gardener, and the WA. Butterfly Association.

By growing a bounty of native plants, mixed with nearly-natives or non-natives, you can attract a variety of butterflies.

Butterflies favor platform-shaped flowers but will feed on a diversity of nectar-rich flowers. They prefer purple, red, orange, violet, and yellow flower colors with sweet scents. Butterflies love warm, sunny and windless weather.

Planning your garden – Think like a Pollinator

- Go Native: pollinators are best adapted to local, native plants which often need less water than ornamentals once established.
- Plant in Groups of three or more: planting large patches of each plant species for better foraging efficiency.
- Blooming All Season: flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season. Make sure to focus on fall blooming plants and plants with a high nectar content.
- Be Patient: it can take time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find them.
- Create Habitat: many butterflies and moths need small piles of branches, leaves, hollow twigs, rotten logs and bunchgrass clumps to complete their lifecycles.
- Be Chemical Free: eliminate all pesticides and limit fertilizers. Even organic insecticides will harm pollinators and beneficial insects. Contact your Idaho Master Gardeners to learn more about cultural methods and techniques to protect your garden from pests. High nitrogen fertilizers harm the water sources they drink from.

Additional resources:

[Washington Butterfly Association - wabutterflyassoc.org](http://WashingtonButterflyAssociation-wabutterflyassoc.org)

<https://xerces.org/your-pollinator-garden/>

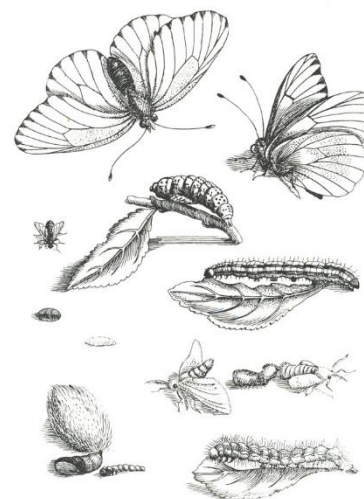
<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf>

<http://xerces.org/pollinators-mountain-region/>

www.butterfliesandmoths.org

- Tolerate Damage on your Plants: a butterfly garden needs plants that feed larvae (caterpillars). They feed on leaves and plant material. If you do not feed the young, the adults will not stay in your landscapes.
- Provide a puddle as a water source: Allow water to puddle in a rock or provide a shallow dish filled with sand as a water source for butterflies. Float corks or a stick in the puddles to allow insects that fall in to be able to crawl out.
- Plant flowers with wide landing pads, or flat arrays of flowers.



” Plate from "Erucarum Ortus" (1679-1717), Maria Sibylla
Sources: “Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants”
<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf>
www.butterfliesandmoths.org

Butterflies of Kootenai County, Idaho, United States

The BAMONA database currently includes verified sighting records for 82 species from this region.

Hesperiidae Skippers

- *Epargyreus clarus* Silver-spotted Skipper
- *Erynnis icelus* Dreamy Duskywing
- *Erynnis persius* Persius Duskywing
- *Pyrgus ruralis* Two-banded Checkered-Skipper
- *Burnsius communis* Common Checkered-Skipper -formerly *Pyrgus communis*
- *Heliopetes ericetorum* Northern White-Skipper
- *Carterocephalus skada* Arctic Skipper - formerly, *C palaemon*
- *Oarisma garita* Garita Skipperling
- *Thymelicus lineola* European Skipper
- *Hesperia juba* Juba Skipper
- *Hesperia colorado* Western Branded Skipper
- *Polites mystic* Long Dash
- *Ochlodes sylvanoides* Woodland Skipper
- *Amblyscirtes vialis* Common Roadside-Skipper

Papilionidae Parnassians and Swallowtails

- *Papilio bairdii* Baird's Swallowtail, formerly Old World Swallowtail, *P. machaon*
- *Papilio zelicaon* Anise Swallowtail
- *Papilio rutulus* Western Tiger Swallowtail
- *Papilio eurymedon* Pale Swallowtail

Pieridae Whites and Sulphurs

- *Anthocharis julia* Julia's Orangetip – formerly *A. sara/A. stella*
- *Euchloe ausonides* Large Marble
- *Neophasia menapia* Pine White
- *Pieris marginalis* Margined White
- *Pieris rapae* Cabbage White

- *Pontia beckerii* Becker's White
- *Colias eriphyle* Clouded, or Eriphyle, Sulphur – formerly *C. philodice*
- *Colias eurytheme* Orange Sulphur
- *Colias occidentalis* Western Sulphur
- *Colias pelidne* Pelidne Sulphur
- *Colias interior* Pink-edged Sulphur

Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies

- *Tharsalea heteronea* Blue Copper - formerly genus, *Lycaena*
- *Tharsalea helloides* Purplish Copper - formerly genus, *Lycaena*
- *Tharsalea mariposa* Mariposa Copper - formerly genus, *Lycaena*
- *Callophrys sheridanii* Sheridan's Green Hairstreak
- *Callophrys nelsoni* Nelson's Hairstreak, aka Juniper or Cedar Hairstreak
- *Callophrys spinetorum* Thicket Hairstreak
- *Callophrys augustinus* Brown Elfin
- *Callophrys mossii* Moss' Elfin
- *Callophrys polios* Hoary Elfin
- *Callophrys eryphon* Western Pine Elfin
- *Satyrium titus* Coral Hairstreak
- *Satyrium sylvinus* Sylvan Hairstreak
- *Satyrium saepium* Hedgerow Hairstreak
- *Strymon melinus* Gray Hairstreak
- *Cupido comyntas* Eastern Tailed-Blue
- *Cupido amyntula* Western Tailed-Blue
- *Celestrina echo* Echo Azure
- *Celestrina asheri* Asher's Blue,- formerly Northern or Dusky Azure, *C.e. nigrescens*
- *Glaucopsyche piasus* Arrowhead Blue
- *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* Silvery Blue
- *Plebejus idas* Northern Blue
- *Plebejus melissa* Melissa Blue (includes Karner Blue)
- *Icaricia saepiolus* Greenish Blue - formerly genus *Plebejus*
- *Icaricia icarioides* Boisduval's Blue - formerly genus *Plebejus*
- *Icaricia lupini* Lupine Blue -- formerly genus *Plebejus*

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

- *Danaus plexippus* Monarch
- *Argynnis cybele* Great Spangled Fritillary - formerly genus *Speyeria*
- *Argynnis zerene* Zerene Fritillary -formerly genus *Speyeria*
- *Argynnis callippe* Callippe Fritillary -formerly genus *Speyeria*
- *Argynnis hydaspe* Hydaspe Fritillary - formerly genus *Speyeria*
- *Boloria epithore* Western Meadow Fritillary
- *Limenitis lorquini* Lorquin's Admiral
- *Chlosyne palla* Northern Checkerspot
- *Phyciodes mylitta* Mylitta Crescent
- *Phyciodes cocyta* Northern Crescent
- *Phyciodes pulchella* Field Crescent
- *Euphydryas editha* Edith's Checkerspot
- *Euphydryas colon* Snowberry Checkerspot - formerly lumped with *E. chalcedona*
- *Euphydryas anicia* Anicia Checkerspot
- *Polygonia satyrus* Satyr Comma
- *Polygonia faunus* Green Comma
- *Polygonia gracilis* Hoary Comma
- *Aglais milberti* Milbert's Tortoiseshell
- *Nymphalis vau-album* Compton Tortoiseshell
- *Nymphalis antiopa* Mourning Cloak
- *Nymphalis californica* California Tortoiseshell
- *Vanessa virginiensis* American Lady
- *Vanessa cardui* Painted Lady
- *Vanessa atalanta* Red Admiral
- *Coenonympha californica* Common Ringlet - formerly, *C. tullia*
- *Erebia epipsodea* Common Alpine
- *Oeneis chryxus* Chryxus Arctic
- *Cercyonis pegala* Common Wood-Nymph
- *Cercyonis oetus* Small Wood-Nymph

Butterflies Need Host *and* Nectar Plants

Host Plant – where adult butterflies and moths lay their eggs; the plant (usually leaves) that caterpillars eat

Nectar Plant – plants that provide nectar (usually from flowers) that adult butterflies and moths eat

SPECIES	HOST PLANTS	NECTAR PLANTS
Anise swallowtail <i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	Desert-parsley/biscuit root*, dill, carrot, garden parsley, anise	Desert-parsley/biscuit root*, garden mint, zinnia, penstemon*
Western tiger swallowtail <i>Papilio rutulus</i>	Big-leaf maple*, willow*, aspen*, cottonwood*	Common lilac, rhododendron*, honeysuckle*, milkweed*, mock orange*, lavender, verbena, sweet william
Pale swallowtail <i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	Buckbrush*, cherry*, plum, hawthorn*, cascara*, oceanspray*	Oceanspray*, columbine*, garden mint, blackberry*, penstemon*, sweet william
Gray hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	Pea*, mallow*, buckthorn*, rhododendron*, rose*, pine*	Goldenrod*, milkweed*, clover*, winter cress*

Pine white <i>Neophasia menapia</i>	Pine*, Douglas-fir*, true fir*, hemlock*, red cedar*	Dusty miller, daisies, coreopsis, lobelia, goldenrod*, strawflower
Orange sulfur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Alfalfa, clover*, and other legumes	Alfalfa, mustard, aster*, red-osier dogwood*
Brown elfin <i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	Apple, bitterbrush*, rhododendron*, azalea, salal*	Cherry*, plum, willow*, osoberry*, bitterbrush*
Purplish copper <i>Lycaena helloides</i>	Knotwood*, cinquefoil*, dock*, sorrel*	Mint*, heather*, clover*
Silvery blue <i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	Lupine*; also wild pea*, vetch*, clover*	Cherry*, plum, coneflower, desert-parsley/biscuit root*, lupine*
Lorquin's admiral <i>Limenitis lorquini</i>	Willow*, oceanspray*, cottonwood*, cherry*, apple	Dogbane*, wild mustard*, blackberry*, privet
Red admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Stinging nettle*	Daisy, aster*, thistle*, dandelion, goldenrod*, milkweed*
Painted lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	sunflower*, pearly everlasting*, hollyhock	Oregon-grape*, rabbitbush, zinnia, dandelion, aster*, cosmos, milkweed*, purple coneflower
Mourning cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Elm, cottonwood*, willow*, birch*, wild rose*, hawthorn*	Elm, cottonwood*, willow*, birch*, wild rose*
California tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis californica</i>	Wild lilac*	Willow*, garden lilac, sneezeweed*
Satyr comma <i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	Stinging nettle*	Dandelion, aster*, blackberry*
Common ringlet <i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	Grasses*	Dandelion, sweetclover, buttercup*
Common wood nymph <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	Grasses*	Coneflower, garden mint, sunflower, fleabane*, penstemon*, clematis
Great spangled fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	Violet*	Gloriosa daisy, verbena, milkweed*
Woodland skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>	Grasses*	Bluebeard, lavender, garden sage, pearly everlasting*, black-eyed susan*, aster*

* Many wild varieties

Host Plant – where adult butterflies and moths lay their eggs; the plant (usually leaves) that caterpillars eat

Nectar Plant – plants that provide nectar (usually from flowers) that adult butterflies and moths eat

Butterflies of Spokane County, Washington, United States

The BAMONA database currently includes verified sighting records for 105 species from this region.

Hesperiidae Skippers

- *Epargyreus clarus* Silver-spotted Skipper
- *Thorybes pylades* Northern Cloudywing
- *Erynnis icelus* Dreamy Duskywing
- *Erynnis pacuvius* Pacuvius Duskywing
- *Erynnis persius* Persius Duskywing
- *Pyrgus ruralis* Two-banded Checkered-Skipper
- *Burnsius communis* Common Checkered-Skipper
- *Heliopetes ericetorum* Northern White-Skipper
- *Pholisora catullus* Common Sootywing
- *Carterocephalus palaemon* Arctic Skipper
- *Oarisma garita* Garita Skipperling
- *Thymelicus lineola* European Skipper
- *Hesperia juba* Juba Skipper
- *Hesperia colorado* Western Branded Skipper
- *Polites sabuleti* Sandhill Skipper
- *Polites mystic* Long Dash
- *Ochlodes sylvanoides* Woodland Skipper
- *Euphyes vestris* Dun Skipper
- *Amblyscirtes vialis* Common Roadside-Skipper

Papilionidae Parnassians and Swallowtails

- *Parnassius clodius* Clodius Parnassian
- *Parnassius smintheus* Rocky Mountain Parnassian
- *Papilio machaon* Old World Swallowtail
- *Papilio zelicaon* Anise Swallowtail
- *Papilio rutulus* Western Tiger Swallowtail
- *Papilio eurymedon* Pale Swallowtail
- *Papilio multicaudata* Two-tailed Swallowtail

Pieridae Whites and Sulphurs

- *Anthocharis stella* Stella Orangetip
- *Euchloe ausonides* Large Marble
- *Neophasia menapia* Pine White
- *Pieris marginalis* Margined White
- *Pieris rapae* Cabbage White
- *Pontia beckerii* Becker's White
- *Pontia protodice* Checkered White
- *Pontia occidentalis* Western White
- *Pontia sisymbrii* Spring White
- *Colias philodice* Clouded Sulphur
- *Colias eurytheme* Orange Sulphur
- *Colias christina* Christina's Sulphur

Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies

- *Lycaena editha* Edith's Copper
- *Lycaena rubidus* Ruddy Copper
- *Lycaena heteronea* Blue Copper
- *Lycaena helloides* Purplish Copper
- *Lycaena mariposa* Mariposa Copper
- *Callophrys affinis* Western Green Hairstreak
- *Callophrys sheridanii* Sheridan's Green Hairstreak
- *Callophrys gryneus* Juniper Hairstreak
- *Callophrys spinetorum* Thicket Hairstreak

- *Callophrys augustinus* Brown Elfin
- *Callophrys mossii* Moss' Elfin
- *Callophrys polios* Hoary Elfin
- *Callophrys eryphon* Western Pine Elfin
- *Satyrrium californica* California Hairstreak
- *Satyrrium sylvinus* Sylvan Hairstreak
- *Satyrrium saepium* Hedgerow Hairstreak
- *Strymon melinus* Gray Hairstreak
- *Euphilotes heracleoides*
- *Cupido comyntas* Eastern Tailed-Blue
- *Cupido amyntula* Western Tailed-Blue
- *Celastrina lucia* Northern Azure
- *Celastrina echo* Echo Azure
- *Glaucopsyche piasus* Arrowhead Blue
- *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* Silvery Blue
- *Euphilotes battoides* Western Square-dotted Blue
- *Plebejus idas* Northern Blue
- *Plebejus melissa* Melissa Blue (includes Karner Blue)
- *Plebejus saepiolus* Greenish Blue
- *Plebejus icarioides* Boisduval's Blue
- *Plebejus acmon* Acmon Blue
- *Plebejus lupini* Lupine Blue

Riodinidae Metalmarks

- *Apodemia mormo* Mormon Metalmark

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

- *Danaus plexippus* Monarch
- *Euptoieta claudia* Variegated Fritillary
- *Speyeria cybele* Great Spangled Fritillary

- *Speyeria zerene* Zerene Fritillary
- *Speyeria callippe* Callippe Fritillary
- *Speyeria egleis* Great Basin Fritillary
- *Speyeria hesperis* Northwestern Fritillary
- *Speyeria hydaspe* Hydaspe Fritillary
- *Speyeria mormonia* Mormon Fritillary
- *Boloria selene* Silver-bordered Fritillary
- *Boloria bellona* Meadow Fritillary
- *Boloria epithore* Pacific Fritillary
- *Limenitis lorquini* Lorquin's Admiral
- *Chlosyne palla* Northern Checkerspot
- *Phyciodes mylitta* Mylitta Crescent
- *Phyciodes cocyta* Northern Crescent
- *Phyciodes pulchella* Field Crescent
- *Euphydryas chalcedona* Chalcedon Checkerspot
- *Euphydryas anicia* Anicia Checkerspot
- *Euphydryas colon* Colon Checkerspot
- *Polygonia satyrus* Satyr Comma
- *Polygonia faunus* Green Comma
- *Polygonia gracilis* Hoary Comma
- *Aglais milberti* Milbert's Tortoiseshell
- *Nymphalis vaualbum* Compton Tortoiseshell
- *Nymphalis antiopa* Mourning Cloak
- *Nymphalis californica* California Tortoiseshell
- *Vanessa cardui* Painted Lady
- *Vanessa annabella* West Coast Lady
- *Vanessa atalanta* Red Admiral
- *Coenonympha tullia* Common Ringlet
- *Erebia epipsodea* Common Alpine
- *Oeneis chryxus* Chryxus Arctic
- *Cercyonis pegala* Common Wood-Nymph
- *Cercyonis oetus* Small Wood-Nymph