

# Butterflies of Kootenai County

Adapted from Oregon State University Extension Booklet EC 1549 and compiled by Mary V., Certified Idaho Master Gardener.

**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.
- 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: Limit pesticides and 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.

**I** University of Idaho  
Extension  
Kootenai County  
958 South Lochsa St  
Post Falls, ID 83854

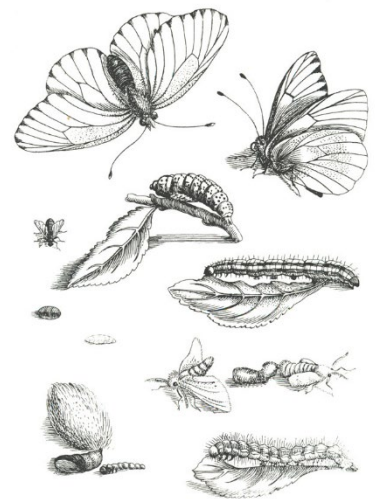
Phone: (208) 292-2525  
FAX: (208) 292-2670  
E-mail: kootenai@uidaho.edu  
Web: uidaho.edu/kootenai



## Additional reading:

- <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/>

- 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](http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org)

## **Butterfly Species in Kootenai County**

### **Hesperiidae Skippers**

- *Erynnis persius* Persius Duskywing
- *Pyrgus ruralis* Two-banded Checkered-Skipper
- *Pyrgus communis* Common Checkered-Skipper
- *Heliopetes ericetorum* Northern White-Skipper
- *Carterocephalus palaemon* Arctic Skipper
- *Oarisma garita* Garita Skipperling
- *Hesperia juba* Juba Skipper
- *Hesperia colorado* Western Branded Skipper
- *Ochlodes sylvanoides* Woodland Skipper
- *Amblyscirtes vialis* Common Roadside-Skipper

### **Papilionidae Parnassians and Swallowtails**

- *Papilio machaon* Old World Swallowtail
- *Papilio zelicaon* Anise Swallowtail
- *Papilio rutulus* Western Tiger Swallowtail
- *Papilio eurymedon* Pale Swallowtail

### **Pieridae Whites and Sulphurs**

- *Anthocharis stella* Stella Orangetip
- *Euchloe ausonides* Large Marble
- *Neophasia menapia* Pine White
- *Pieris marginalis* Margined White
- *Pontia beckerii* Becker's White
- *Colias eurytheme* Orange Sulphur
- *Colias occidentalis* Western Sulphur
- *Colias pelidne* Pelidne Sulphur
- *Colias interior* Pink-edged Sulphur

### **Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies**

- *Lycaena heteronea* Blue Copper
- *Lycaena helloides* Purplish Copper
- *Lycaena mariposa* Mariposa Copper
- *Callophrys sheridanii* Sheridan's Green Hairstreak
- *Callophrys nelsoni* Nelson's Hairstreak
- *Callophrys spinetorum* Thicket Hairstreak
- *Callophrys augustinus* Brown Elfin
- *Callophrys mossii* Moss' Elfin

- *Callophrys polios* Hoary Elfin
- *Callophrys eryphon* Western Pine Elfin
- *Satyrium sylvinus* Sylvan Hairstreak
- *Satyrium saepium* Hedgerow Hairstreak
- *Strymon melinus* Gray Hairstreak
- *Cupido amyntula* Western Tailed-Blue
- *Celastrina lucia* Northern Azure
- *Glaucopsyche piasus* Arrowhead Blue
- *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* Silvery Blue
- *Plebejus idas* Northern Blue
- *Plebejus melissa* Melissa Blue (includes Karner Blue)
- *Plebejus saepiolus* Greenish Blue
- *Plebejus icarioides* Boisduval's Blue
- *Plebejus lupini* Lupine Blue

### **Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies**

- *Speyeria cybele* Great Spangled Fritillary
- *Speyeria zerene* Zerene Fritillary
- *Speyeria callippe* Callippe Fritillary
- *Speyeria hydaspe* Hydaspe 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 editha* Edith's Checkerspot
- *Euphydryas chalcedona* Chalcedon Checkerspot
- *Euphydryas anicia* Anicia 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 atalanta* Red Admiral
- *Vanessa cardui* Painted Lady
- *Coenonympha tullia* Common Ringlet
- *Erebia epipsodea* Common Alpine
- *Oeneis chryxus* Chryxus Arctic
- *Cercyonis pegala* Common Wood-Nymph
- *Cercyonis oetus* Small Wood-Nymph

## Common Kootenai County Butterflies with Host and Nectar Plants

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>HOST PLANTS</b>	<b>NECTAR PLANTS</b>
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**