

Butterflies

of the BFEC Wildlife Garden

Tips for Butterfly Viewing

- Butterflies vary in their relative abundance and season; visit the Garden often from April through October to see the widest variety of species.
- Bright sunny days are best for viewing butterflies, which need a body temperature of up to 85°F to fly.
- The top (dorsal) wing can look very different from the bottom (ventral); for some species we've included photos of both.
- Butterflies can be difficult to approach; try watching them with binoculars from a short distance.



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BFEC members may request their own copy by calling 427-5050.



Black Swallowtail

Host plants: generalist - queen anne's lace, parsley, wild parsnip. Very large - up to 5 inch wingspan. Most common of six swallowtail species in Ohio.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Host plants: ash, tulip and black cherry trees. Very large.



Cabbage White

Host plants: mustard family. Very common, considered garden pest for broccoli and other vegetables in mustard family.



Clouded / Orange Sulphur

Host plants: clovers. Clouded and orange sulphurs are separate species but very similar. Very common, small.



Spring / Summer Azure

Host plants: dogwood, black cherry. Spring and Summer Azures are separate species but very similar. Very small.



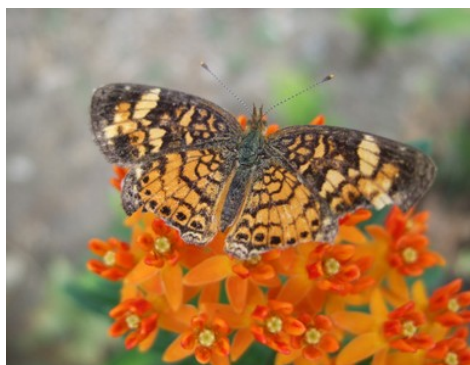
Great Spangled Fritillary

Host Plants: Violets. Very large, frequent visitor the Garden.



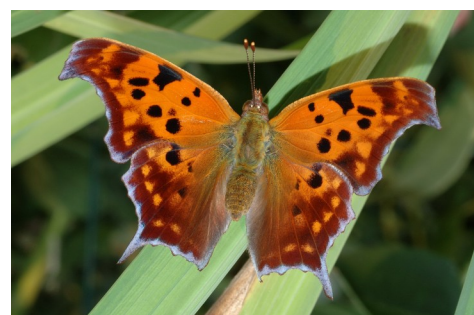
Meadow Fritillary

Host plants: violets. Medium-sized, smaller and earlier than great spangled fritillary.



Pearl Crescent

Host plants: asters. Small.



Question Mark

Host plants: American elm, hackberry, stinging nettle. Named for shape of wing edge. Long-lived, up to 8 months.

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Native Plants and Attracting Butterflies

Our Garden may look “wild” in part because we’ve included many plants that are native to Ohio rather than highly selected horticultural varieties or plants from other countries. Butterflies require the nectar of native plants as food sources, and many also require specific native species, called host plants (listed below), for laying eggs. Please visit our kiosk for more information about native plants and tips on garden design for butterflies.



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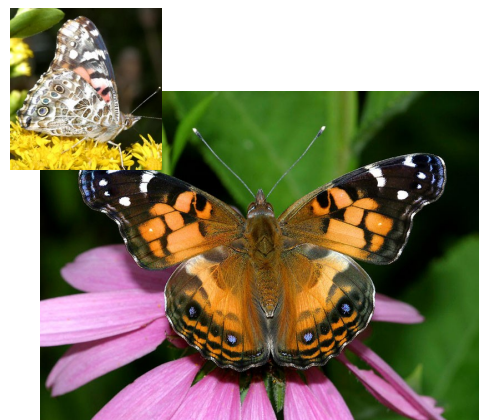
Eastern Comma

Host plants: nettles, elms. Named for silver mark on curve of hindwing. Feeds on animal scat, infrequently on flowers.



Red Admiral

Host plants: nettles. Attract to yard by setting out rotten fruit.



American Lady

Host plants: pussy-toes, burdock. Named for intricate markings on ventral hindwing. Often nectars on milkweeds.



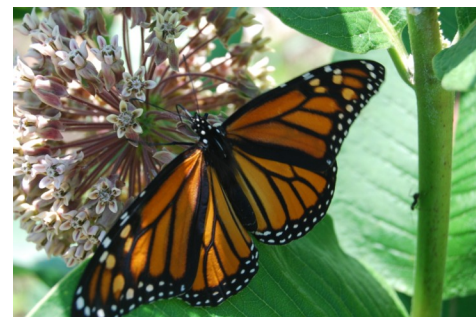
Common Buckeye

Host plants: generalist - plantain, vervain families. Migrates into Ohio every year from more southern hibernation grounds.



Red-Spotted Purple

Host plants: black cherry, poplars and aspen. Common along forested roads.



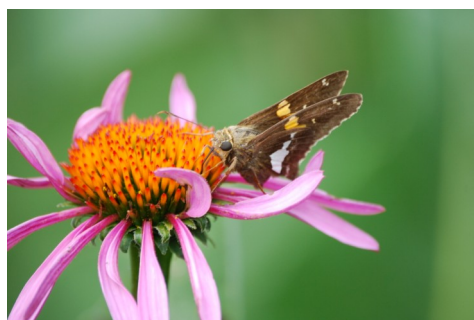
Monarch

Host plants: milkweeds. Longest living butterfly in Ohio, up to 10 months. After hibernating in Mexico, lays eggs in southern states and offspring migrate north.



Common Wood-Nymph

Host plants: grasses. May lack yellow around eye spots on forewings.



Silver-spotted skipper

Host plants: black locust, honey-locust. Larger and more conspicuously marked than other Ohio skippers.



Peck's Skipper

Host plants: grasses. Very small. The 10 species of skippers found in Ohio are difficult to distinguish.