



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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FAMILIAR BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA

by Ann Swengel, 1995

The listed butterfly flight periods and caterpillar seasons are approximate, for they vary considerably from region to region because of climatic variation. In Canada, the seasons will be much shorter. In the (sub)tropics, the seasons may last most or all of the year.

Caterpillars usually eat leaves and/or flowers of their food plants. When you find a caterpillar on a plant listed below, it might not be that butterfly species. Many plants are eaten by a variety of butterfly and moth caterpillars.

Check field guides for specific ranges, seasons, and identification features of these species. The butterflies native to your area will most likely be attracted to your garden if you have their caterpillar food plant(s) in your yard or nearby in the neighborhood. The butterfly names follow NABA's 1st *Checklist & English Names of North American Butterflies*.

The numbers correspond to the month (3=March, 4=April, 5=May, and so on).

BUTTERFLY	BUTTERFLY FLIGHT	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
SWALLOWTAILS			
Pipevine Swallowtail (<i>Battus philenor</i>)	4-9	5-9	pipevine
Zebra Swallowtail (<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>)	4-8	5-8	paw-paw & related
Black & Anise Swallowtails (<i>Papilio polyxenes & zelicaon</i>)	4-9	5-9	carrot, dill, fennel, parsley, Queen Anne's lace, & related
Giant Swallowtail (<i>Papilio cressphontes</i>)	4-9	5-9	hercules club, prickly ash, citrus
Eastern Tiger & Two-tailed Swallowtails (<i>Papilio glaucus & multicaudata</i>)	4-8	5-9	ash, yellow poplar, sweet bay, serviceberry, cherry, hoptree
Canadian & Western Tiger Swallowtails (<i>Papilio canadensis & rutulus</i>)	5-7	6-8	alder, birch, poplar, cottonwood, willow; W. also apple/cherry orchard trees
Pale Swallowtail (<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>)	4-7	5-8	buckthorn, ceanothus, alder, wild cherry/plum, hawthorn
Spicebush Swallowtail	4-9	5-9	sassafras, spicebush

BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
<i>(Papilio troilus)</i> Palamedes Swallowtail <i>(Papilio palamedes)</i>	3-11	4-11	red bay, sweet bay
WHITES & SULPHURS			
Becker's & Spring Whites <i>(Pontia beckerii & sisymbrii)</i>	3-10	3-10	mustard, tumble mustard, rock cress, & related
Checkered & Western Whites <i>(Pontia protodice & occidentalis)</i>	4-11	4-11	peppergrass, winter cress, tumble (hedge) mustard, & related
Cabbage White <i>(Pieris rapae)</i>	3-11	4-10	cabbage, winter cress, peppergrass, & related
Great Southern White <i>(Ascia monuste)</i>	1-12	2-9	beach cabbage, saltwort, peppergrass, cabbage, & related
Sara & Falcate Orangetips <i>(Anthocharis sara & midea)</i>	3-6	4-7	rock cress, winter cress, toothwort, & related
Clouded Sulphur <i>(Colias philodice)</i>	4-10	3-10	white & other clovers, trefoil, alfalfa, & related
Orange & Western Sulphurs <i>(C. eurytheme & occidentalis)</i>	4-10	3-10	alfalfa, white sweet clover, vetch, & related
Pink-edged Sulphur <i>(Colias interior)</i>	6-8	4-9	blueberry
California & Southern Dogfaces <i>(Colias eurydice & cesonia)</i>	3-11	3-11	indigo bush (amorpha), alfalfa, clover, & related
Cloudless & Orange-barred & Large Orange Sulphurs <i>(Phoebis sennae & philea & agarithe)</i>	3-11	3-11	Cloudless & Orange-barred: wild senna & other cassias Large Orange: Blackbead & related woody legumes
Barred Yellow <i>(Eurema daira)</i>	1-12	3-10	joint vetches, pencil flower
Little Yellow & Sleepy Orange <i>(Eurema lisa & nicippe)</i>	3-11	3-11	wild senna & other cassias; Little: also sensitive plant & related
Dainty Sulphur <i>(Nathalis iole)</i>	3-11	3-11	short daisies like beggarticks dogweed
COPPERS, HAIRSTREAKS, & BLUES			
American Copper <i>(Lycaena phlaeas)</i>	4-10	5-10	sheep sorrel
Purplish Copper <i>(Lycaena helloides)</i>	5-10	3-9	knotweed, smartweed, sheep sorrel, & related
Great Purple Hairstreak <i>(Atlides halesus)</i>	3-11	4-11	green mistletoe growing on trees & shrubs

BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Coral Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium titus</i>)	6-8	3-5	wild cherry, wild plum
Banded Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium calanus</i>)	6-8	4-5	hickory, oak, walnut
Eastern & Western Pine Elfins (<i>Callophrys niphon & eryphon</i>)	4-6	5-7	pinus, usually hard pines
Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	4-10	5-10	many plants, especially legumes & mallows
Red-banded Hairstreak (<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>)	4-10	4-10	fallen leaves of sumacs, wax myrtle, oaks
Cassius & Marine Blue (<i>Leptotes cassius & marina</i>)	3-10	3-10	leadwort (plumbago), milkpea, Cassius: also rattlebox; Marine: also clover, milkvetch, alfalfa, & related
Reakirt's Blue (<i>Hemiargus isola</i>)	3-11	3-11	legumes & mimosas
Eastern & Western Tailed-Blues (<i>Everes comyntas & amyntula</i>)	4-9	5-9	alfalfa, clover, vetch, & related
Spring Azure (<i>Celastrina ladon</i>)	4-9	5-9	blueberry, ceanothus, dogwood, meadowsweet, viburnum, wild cherry, & others
Silvery Blue (<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>)	4-6	5-7	vetch, wild pea (lathyrus), & related
Melissa Blue (<i>Lycaeides melissa</i>)	4-10	3-9	wild licorice, alfalfa, & related legumes
Acmon Blue (<i>Plebejus acmon</i>)	3-10	3-10	clover, milk vetch, alfalfa, lupine, sweet clover, & related; wild buckwheat

METALMARKS

Mormon Metalmark (<i>Apodemia mormo</i>)	5-10	3-11	wild buckwheat
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SNOUTS

American Snout (<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>)	3-11	4-7	hackberry, sugarberry
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BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

Gulf Fritillary (<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>)	3-11	3-11	maypops & related
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BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Julia & Zebra (<i>Dryas iulia</i> & <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>)	1-12	1-12	passion vines
Variiegated Fritillary (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>)	4-10	4-10	violets, maypops, & others
Great Spangled & Atlantis Fritillaries (<i>Speyeria cybele</i> & <i>atlantis</i>)	6-9	4-5	violets
Aphrodite & Callippe Fritillaries (<i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> & <i>callippe</i>)	6-8	4-5	violets
Meadow & Pacific Fritillaries (<i>Boloria bellona</i> & <i>epithore</i>)	5-9	4-10	violets
Gorgone Checkerspot (<i>Chlosyne gorgone</i>)	5-9	3-10	sunflowers
Silvery Checkerspot (<i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>)	5-8	4-9	wingstem, black-eyed Susan, sunflowers, & related
Tiny & Elada Checkerspots (<i>Dymasia dymas</i> & <i>Texola elada</i>)	4-11		hairy tubetongue
Phaon & Field Crescents (<i>Phyciodes phaon</i> & <i>campestris</i>)	3-11	3-11	Phaon: fogfruit (lippia) Field: asters
Pearl & Northern Crescents (<i>Phyciodes tharos</i> & <i>selenis</i>)	4-9	4-10	asters
Mylitta Crescent (<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>)	3-10	3-10	thistles
Variable & Baltimore Checker-spots (<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i> & <i>phaeton</i>)	5-8 7-9	3-4	turtlehead, beardtongue, false foxglove, monkey flower, paintbrush, & related
Question Mark & Eastern Comma (<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i> & <i>comma</i>)	3-11	4-8	nettles, false nettle, hops, elm; Question Mark also: hackberry
Satyr Comma (<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>)	3-11	4-5	nettles
California Tortoiseshell (<i>Nymphalis californica</i>)	3-11	4-8	wild lilac (ceanothus)
Mourning Cloak (<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>)	3-11	4-7	aspen, birch, cottonwood, elm, hackberry, willow
Milbert's Tortoiseshell (<i>Nymphalis milberti</i>)	3-11	4-8	nettles
American Lady (<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>)	4-10	5-10	pearly & sweet everlasting, pussy toes, & related
Painted & West Coast Ladies (<i>Vanessa cardui</i> & <i>annabella</i>)	3-10	4-10	mallows, hollyhocks; Painted Lady also: legumes, thistles, & others

BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	4-10	5-9	false nettle, nettles, wood nettle, pellitory
Common Buckeye (<i>Junonia coenia</i>)	5-10	5-10	snapdragon, toadflax, false foxglove, plantain, monkey flower, & related
White Peacock (<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>)	1-12	2-11	lippia, ruellia, water hyssop
White Admiral & Red-spotted Purple (<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>)	5-9	4-10	wild cherry, poplar, black oak, other trees & shrubs
Viceroy (<i>Limenitis archippus</i>)	5-9	4-10	aspen, willow
Weidemeyer's & Lorquin's Admirals (<i>Limenitis weidemeyeri</i> & <i>lorquini</i>)	4-9	4-10	willow, aspen, cottonwood, chokecherry, & other deciduous shrubs
California Sister (<i>Adelpha bredowii</i>)	5-9	4-10	oaks
Goatweed Leafwing (<i>Anaea andria</i>)	3-11	4-8	goatweed & other crotons
Hackberry & Tawny Emperors (<i>Asterocampa celtis</i> & <i>clyton</i>)	5-10	4-11	hackberry, sugarberry

SATYRS

Southern & Northern Pearly-Eyes (<i>Enodia portlandia</i> & <i>anthonia</i>)	4-10	3-11	Southern: canes (bamboo) Northern: grasses
Little Wood-Satyr (<i>Megisto cymela</i>)	5-8	3-4 & 6-10	orchard grass, centipede grass, & related
Common Ringlet (<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>)	6-9	4-10	grasses & rushes
Common Wood-Nymph (<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>)	6-9	4-5	purpletop, other grasses

MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES

Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	4-10	5-10	milkweed
Queen (<i>Danaus gilippus</i>)	3-11	3-11	milkweed & related

SPREAD-WING SKIPPERS

Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>)	5-9	6-10	black & honey locusts, wisteria, & related
Long-tailed Skipper & Dorantes Longtail (<i>Urbanus proteus</i> & <i>dorantes</i>)	3-11	3-11	viny legumes

BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Southern & Northern Cloudywings (<i>Thorybes bathyllus</i> & <i>pylades</i>)	5-7	6-8	beggar-ticks, bush clover, milk vetch, & related
Hayhurst's Scallopwing (<i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>)	5-8	3-10	lamb's quarter
Dreamy & Sleepy Duskywings (<i>Erynnis icelus</i> & <i>brizo</i>)	4-6	5-7	Dreamy: poplar, willow Sleepy: oaks
Juvenal's & Rocky Mountain Duskywings (<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i> & <i>telemachus</i>)	4-6	5-7	oaks
Meridian & Pacuvius Duskywings (<i>Erynnis meridianus</i> & <i>pacuvius</i>)	4-9	5-10	oaks
Zarucco & Funereal Duskywings (<i>Erynnis zarucco</i> & <i>funeralis</i>)	3-11	4-11	vetch, locust, & related
Wild Indigo Duskywing (<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>)	5-9	6-9	wild indigo, lupine, false lupine, crown vetch
Common Checkered-Skipper (<i>Pyrgus communis</i>)	4-10	4-10	mallow, hollyhock
Common Sootywing (<i>Pholisora catullus</i>)	4-9	5-10	lamb's quarters, amaranths, cockscomb, rarely mints

FOLDED-WING SKIPPERS

Least Skipper (<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>)	5-10	6-11	grasses
European Skipper (<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>)	6-7	7-8	timothy grass
Fiery Skipper (<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>)	3-11	3-11	crabgrass, bermuda grass, & other weedy grasses
Peck's Skipper (<i>Polites peckius</i>)	5-9	5-9	rice cutgrass & other grasses
Sandhill Skipper (<i>Polites sabuleti</i>)	4-10	5-10	bermuda grass & other grasses
Tawny-edged & Crossline Skippers (<i>Polites</i> <i>themistocles</i> & <i>origenes</i>)	5-9	6-10	Tawny-edged: panic grasses Crossline: purpletop & other grasses
Whirlabout (<i>Polites vibex</i>)	3-11	3-11	bermuda grass, St. Augustine grass, & other grasses
Southern & Northern Broken- Dashes (<i>Wallengrenia otho</i> & <i>egeremet</i>)	5-9	3-11	Southern: paspalum & other grasses; Northern: panic grasses
Little Glassywing (<i>Pompeius verna</i>)	6-8		purpletop
Sachem	3-11		bermuda & other grasses

BUTTERFLY	FLIGHT	SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
<i>(Atalopedes campestris)</i>			
Delaware Skipper	6-8		grasses
<i>(Anatrytone logan)</i>			
Woodland Skipper	7-10	3-6 &	grasses
<i>(Ochlodes sylvanoides)</i>		9-10	
Hobomok & Taxiles Skippers	6-7	7-8	grasses
<i>(Poanes hobomok & taxiles)</i>			
Zabulon Skipper	5-9		grasses
<i>(Poanes zabulon)</i>			
Dun Skipper	6-9	4-5 &	sedges
<i>(Euphyes vestris)</i>		8-10	
Eufala Skipper	3-10	3-10	grasses
<i>(Lerodea eufala)</i>			