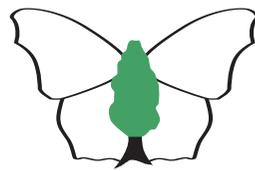




Hummingbird Hawkmoths are often encountered nectaring on Valerian

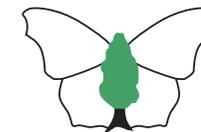


Late summer nectar sources attract a large number of butterflies



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats



Butterfly Conservation

gardening for butterflies and moths

Useful information

The following publications are available from Butterfly Conservation:

- Butterfly Gardening by Jenny Steel
- Britain's Butterflies by David Tomlinson and Rob Still
- FSC Guide to the Butterflies of Britain
- FSC Guide to the Caterpillars of the Butterflies of Britain and Ireland
- FSC Guide to Day-Flying Moths of Britain
- The State of Britain's Larger Moths
- The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland
- Discover Butterflies in Britain

To find out how to purchase these please call 01929 400209



Orange-tip

Tips for creating a butterfly and moth paradise:

- Provide nectar right through the butterfly season by growing many different butterfly and moth attracting plants in sunny, sheltered positions
- Grow some caterpillar foodplants
- Turn part of your garden into a mini wilderness by letting the grass grow tall during the summer
- Don't buy peat-based composts, water-worn limestone or other materials that form vital natural habitats for endangered butterflies and moths
- Avoid the use of insecticides

Join us

Turning your garden into a haven for butterflies and moths will make a real contribution to your local wildlife. But there is always much more to be done, and we rely on donations and annual membership subscriptions to allow us to continue our conservation work.

By joining Butterfly Conservation, you will be supporting our work to save native butterflies and moths from extinction. Members receive our magazine **Butterfly** three times a year. Check out www.butterfly-conservation.org or call **01929 400209** to find out more.

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Gardens are places for people to enjoy but also **provide essential homes** for butterflies and moths across the UK



Holly Blue butterfly



Garden Tiger moth



Aubretia attracts several species

create a wildlife haven

Butterflies and moths are far less common now than they were fifty years ago and you don't have to look hard to find out why. Flower meadows filled with butterflies were once commonplace, but now they are little more than a memory. Since the 1940s, 97% of these meadows have been destroyed together with much downland, ancient woodland and peat bogs. Even common butterflies have lost out as hedges and field boundaries rich in wild flowers and grasses have gone under the plough.



Small Tortoiseshell

What can you do about it?

We can all make a difference to the conservation of butterflies and moths. Anyone with a garden or even a window box, no matter what size or where it is, can help save butterflies, moths and other wildlife. In the UK, our gardens cover two million acres of land - that's 15 million gardens, each of which can be a mini nature reserve for butterflies and moths, cared for by gardeners.

Turning your garden into a butterfly and moth haven

Each of the following four points will benefit butterflies and moths in your garden - the more you do, the greater the benefits.

one Flowers for butterflies and moths

Butterflies and moths visit gardens to drink nectar from flowers. Butterflies are active animals and nectar provides the fuel needed to keep them airborne. Many good nectar plants are hardy, perennial and easy to grow, so make your garden a five-star restaurant for passing butterflies and moths. Have flowers available right through the butterfly season, but particularly in spring and autumn. Early flowers are great for butterflies just emerging from hibernation, while in late summer and autumn some species need to build up their reserves in preparation for winter.

Spring nectar

Aubretia, Bluebell, Clover, Cuckooflower, Daisy, Dandelion, Forget-me-not, Honesty, Pansy, Primrose, Sweet Rocket and Wallflower.

Late summer / autumn nectar

Buddleia, French Marigold, Ice Plant (Sedum spectabile), Ivy, Knapweed, Lavender, Marjoram (Origanum), Michaelmas Daisy, Mint, Red Valerian, Scabious and Thyme.

Tip: Prune some of your Buddleia vigorously in March to ensure late flowering

- Grow flowers in sunny, sheltered areas, as butterflies will seek out the warmest parts of your garden.
- The greater variety of plants that you grow, the more butterflies will visit. 'Old fashioned' varieties often have more nectar than their modern relatives.

Tip: Water your plants during dry weather by collecting a supply of rain water in butts placed under downpipes. The amount of nectar produced decreases dramatically if plants are short of water.

Did you know that...

The Large White and Small White are commonly referred to as 'cabbage whites' because their caterpillars sometimes eat cabbages. Both species also eat wild plants and Nasturtium, so grow these as a diversion. If you do have to control 'cabbage white' caterpillars in your vegetable patch, don't resort to chemicals - it is far cheaper and more environmentally friendly to simply remove them physically!

two Food for thought

Providing nectar for adult butterflies is a great way to help, but it's equally important to provide food for caterpillars. Although many caterpillars are fussy eaters, you can help boost dwindling populations by providing food sources in your garden.

Plants for caterpillars

Stinging Nettles

Comma, Red Admiral and moths such as Scarlet Tiger, Spectacle, Small Magpie and Snout

Holly and Ivy

Holly Blue

Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn

Brimstone

Cuckooflower and Garlic Mustard

Orange-tip and Green-veined White

Hop

Comma and moths such as Buttoned Snout, Angle Shades and Dark Spectacle

Common Bird's-foot-trefoil

Common Blue

Tip: Limit the spread of Stinging Nettles by growing them in a large container sunk into the ground.

Tip: Many plants and seeds sold as 'wild flowers' are actually exotic or cultivated species, which may not be suitable for butterflies. Try to buy genuine UK wildflower plants and seed. Flora Locale have a list of specialist growers and suppliers of British native plants, which can be found at www.floralocale.org by typing "suppliers" into the online library search box.

Did you know that...

Moths visit your garden as well and a torchlight safari around your Buddleia bushes will reveal moths such as the Silver-Y, Willow Beauty, Mother of Pearl and Brimstone. Night scented plants such as Evening Primrose, Sweet Rocket, Jasmine and Honeysuckle are particularly good for attracting moths.

three Go wild

Letting an area go wild may encourage butterflies and moths to breed in your garden! Regular visitors such as the Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown, together with occasional callers such as the Small Skipper, Wall, Marbled White and Ringlet all have caterpillars that eat common grasses, but only when they are left to grow tall. Many moths will benefit too.

To create a wild area, simply allow the grasses and wildflowers already there to grow, or supplement with extra plants. Treat wildflower seeds like any others: sow in trays, prick out and grow on before planting out in small groups. In the first year cut the area several times to give your new wildflowers a chance against the competitive grasses. Later the 'meadow' can be cut at the end of each summer, after all the flowers have set seed. It is important to remove the 'hay' afterwards but leave a few patches of long grass, in which caterpillars can pass the winter.

four Environmentally friendly gardening

Help to preserve habitats for rare butterflies. Peat bogs are home to many special animals and plants, including the Large Heath butterfly, which is declining across Europe.

This scarce habitat is being destroyed to provide peat for garden compost - so please don't buy it! Good alternatives are available from garden centres. Also, cut down on your use of herbicides and pesticides. They kill butterflies, moths and many other pollinating insects, as well as ladybirds, ground beetles and spiders - the natural enemies of your garden pests.

What might visit my butterfly garden

A good garden might be visited by 22 species of butterfly and many hundreds of different moths each year, depending upon where you live. There are 59 resident and regular migrant species of butterfly in the UK and almost all have been recorded in gardens at one time or another.

Common garden butterflies

Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown.

Butterfly gardening in containers

Great nectar plants such as Marjoram, Thyme, Marigolds, Wallflowers, Nasturtiums and Ice Plant do well in containers and window boxes, so even the smallest garden, or window sill, can provide valuable food for butterflies and moths.

Helping wildlife

Making your garden a butterfly and moth paradise will benefit lots of other wildlife too. Bumblebees and hoverflies feed on nectar, whilst native plants, wild areas and organic gardening will encourage a huge variety of insects, birds, mammals and reptiles. Many of these creatures prey upon garden pests such as aphids and slugs. Birds and hedgehogs will quickly learn that your garden is a good source of food for their young.

The wider picture

The rapid intensification of farming and forestry has led to widespread destruction of flower-rich meadows, hedgerows, ancient woods and heathland - all of which are vital habitats for butterflies and moths. Butterfly Conservation is the UK charity taking action to conserve butterflies, moths and their habitats. One of the many aspects of our work is advising landowners, managers and other organisations on conserving and restoring important habitats in the countryside, towns and cities. Butterfly Conservation also carries out surveys, monitoring and research, and promotes butterfly and moth friendly gardening.