



## Washington Butterfly Association

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### Common Butterflies of the Puget Sound Region and Their Food Plants - By David Droppers

**Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*).** Identification: Large. Yellow with black tiger stripes. Underside with some blue. Flight Period: mid April – late September, peak in June. Favorite Nectar Plants: mock orange, milkweeds, thistles, rhododendron, lilac, blackberry. Larval Host Plants: Native willows, quaking aspen and other poplars, red alder.



**Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)** Identification: Large. Mostly black, centrally yellow, with row of blue dots on hindwing. Flight Period: late March – late September, peaks in May, July-August. Favorite Nectar Plants: Lilacs, azalea, columbine, fireweed, large showy flowers. Larval Host Plants: Garden parsley and dill, angelica, cow parsnip, many others.



**Purplish Copper (*Lycaena helloides*)** Identification: Top orange and brown, males with purplish sheen. Bottom tan with red zigzag. Flight Period: late April – mid October, peaks in May and August. Favorite Nectar Plants: asters, pearly everlasting, many composites and garden herbs. Larval Host Plants: Native and non-native docks and knotweeds.

**Pine White (*Neophasia menapia*)** Identification: White with black forewing patch, black veins below. Flight Period: late June – early October, peak in August. Favorite Nectar Plants: Goldenrod, pearly everlasting, asters, fireweed. Larval Host Plants: Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-Fir, among other conifers.



**Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)** Identification: White, black wing tips and spots. Males have one spot, females two spots. Flight Period: early March – early November, peaks in May, July and September. Favorite Nectar Plants: Many, especially garden flowers, such as oregano and lavender. Larval Host Plants: Garden Brassicae, especially broccoli and cabbage.



**Cedar Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*)** Identification: Small. Varying brown above, below buff brown with violet tint, variable white postmedian line, small tails on hindwings. Flight Period: late March – early August, peaks in May-June. Favorite Nectar Plants: Goldenrods, dandelion, and other yellow composites, yarrow, clovers, red-flowering currant, vine maple, Oregon grape. Larval Host Plants: western red cedar, incense cedar.

**Echo (Spring) Azure (*Celastrina echo*)** Identification: Small, males blue, females black and blue. Small gray crescents on ventral hindwing. Flight Period: late February – early October, peaks in April and August. Favorite Nectar Plants: Red-flowering currant, dandelions, dogwood, cherry, wisteria, other early bloomers. Larval Host Plants: Red-oiser dogwood, salal, ocean spray.

**Brown Elfin: (*Callophrys augustinus*)**

**Identification:** Small, brown, base of ventral hindwing mostly black. Males with slight reddish sheen in sun. **Flight Period:** mid March – late July, peak in May. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Many of the larval host plants, other early blooming flowers. **Laval Host Plants:** kinnikinnick, ocean spray, salal, rhododendron, huckleberry.

**Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)**

**Identification:** Unmistakable. Warm plum/brown, yellow fringe with blue spots. **Flight Period:** mid February – mid October, peaks in April, June, September. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Red-flowering Currant, asters, rotting fruit, tree sap. **Larval Host Plants:** Native willows, poplars.



**Mylitta Crescent (*Phyciodes mylitta*)**

**Identification:** Small, top mottled black and orange, bottom brown and cream. **Flight Period:** mid March – mid October, peaks in May and July-August. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Thistles, goldenrod, asters, other composite flowers. **Laval Host Plants:** Canada thistle, other native thistles

**Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)**

**Identification:** 3 inches, mottled orange and black, with white forewing bar. Four eyespots below. **Flight Period:** early April – early November, peaks in May, July, September. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Dandelion, asters, thistles, clovers, many composite flowers. **Larval Host Plants:** Thistles, mallows, pearly everlasting.



**West Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)**

**Identification:** Like the Painted Lady, but with squared wing tips, orange forewing bar and blue spots on hindwings. **Flight Period:** early March – mid November, peaks in May, August and October. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Composites, asters, goldenrod, dogbane. **Laval Host Plants:** Mallows, nettles, and hollyhocks.

**Red Admirable (*Vanessa atalanta*)**

**Identification:** Brown base, broad red bands. Unmistakable in the Puget Sound region. **Flight Period:** late March – late October, peaks in July and September. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Composite flowers, such as asters, and rotting fruit and tree sap. **Larval Host Plants:** Stinging nettles.



**Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*)**

**Identification:** Unmistakable. Large, black with white bands and orange wing tips. **Flight Period:** mid February – early October, peaks in June-August. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Dogbane, yarrow, thistle, and others, although not always common at flowers. **Larval Host Plants:** Native willows, poplars, ocean spray.



**Woodland Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanoides*)**

**Identification:** Small, orange brown, yellow submarginal band "breaks." **Flight Period:** mid June – early October, peak in August. **Favorite Nectar Plants:** Asters, goldenrod, marigolds, pearly everlasting, lavender. **Larval Host Plants:** Native and non-native grasses.

